

Blow to NCB as market for 1½m tonnes of output is lost

Electricity board blocks change from oil to coal

By John Hooper, Energy Correspondent

The Central Electricity Generating Board has decided against converting one of its most modern oil-fired power stations to coal, dealing an unexpected blow to the National Coal Board's plans for recovery.

The NCB had estimated that it would be needed to provide coal for the Isle of Grain, Kent, a station which would be converted from oil to coal at a cost of £10m and a half tonnes of coal annually.

Not converting the station will come as a disappointment to the North-east coal industry which already supplies a number of power stations in the South-east and had expected to provide coal for the Isle of Grain.

The CEBG said last night that "through a successful technical programme, the board has been able to reduce the amount of high-cost oil burned on its system so that conversion is uneconomic".

Disclosing the decision to a group of Scottish MPs, where the new boilers would have been made, Sir Walter Marshall, the chairman of the CEBG, said that the board's dependence on oil-fired power stations had been reduced by increased output from other stations and longer estimates for the lives of the Magnox nuclear power stations and some of the coal-fired ones.

Mr Malcolm Edwards, NCB's sales director, said yesterday: "This will make no significant difference to the CEBG's take of NCB coal." Nevertheless, there is bound to be some bitterness within the coal board over the decision, which comes within months of the inauguration by the CEBG of a cross-channel link which will make available a sizeable quantity of mainly nuclear-generated French electricity.

The CEBG has been looking into the feasibility of converting the Isle of Grain for two years. It said yesterday that the most attractive option would have involved converting one of the station's four 600 MW generators and building an unfinished fifth one to run on both coal and gas. The board said this option would have cost more than £300 million.

TUC move to examine union's ballot stand

By Jane McLoughlin, Industrial Relations Correspondent

The TUC inner cabinet — the Finance and General Purposes Committee — yesterday set in motion a process which could lead, theoretically, to the expulsion of the million-strong engineering workers' union.

It recommended an investigation of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers over its acceptance of government funding for post-poll ballots. The TUC could then either move for expulsion at September's Congress, or delay a decision on the basis that the process of examination is under way.

TUC policy was limited when the AUEW accepted £1.2 million for postal ballots it had held since 1982. Part of the TUC's policy in opposing the Government's anti-union legislation forbids taking such payments.

The electronics union, the EETPU, with more than 360,000 members, has also applied for government funding for postal ballots, and has said it will consider challenging the TUC through the courts.

But the TUC wants to avoid examination of the AUEW and the EETPU at a time when unity is threatened by the breakdown of the miners' and others who might support them and create an alternative TUC.

Expulsion from the TUC carries with it automatic divorce from the Labour Party, which cannot recognise a union not affiliated to the TUC. With the Alliance apparently closing the electoral gap in many marginal industrial areas, the question of the AUEW and the EETPU's defection is taken very seriously.

The TUC's employment policy and organisation committee yesterday decided to recommend no change in the TUC policy that unions should not take public money for postal ballots.

But the committee is urging a statement be put to Congress making clear that the TUC does not oppose unions defending themselves in court, building up strike funds or changing rules on the elections of officers.

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Teachers left in dark on terms of pay deal

By Andrew Manser, Education Staff

The employers' new terms for taking the teachers' dispute to arbitration failed to emerge during this week's crucial and unsuccessful pay talks, it became clear yesterday.

The full Burnham negotiations came to a halt early yesterday, but the offer became known in private 12 hours later — something which could cause strain between union leaders.

Mr Fred Jarvis, leader of the teachers' panel, will be asked today why the details were not brought out. The teachers' side went on to reject offers of conciliation and arbitration.

Mr John Pearson, the employers' acting leader, confirmed yesterday that they are prepared to go to arbitration on the basis of the proposed package, which was elaborately read into the Burnham verbatim record.

The phased package would add 6.06 per cent to the pay bill this year. Previously, any arbitration would have been based on the 5 per cent formally offered and rejected in May.

Mr Fred Smith, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, who is unable to speak in the full

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Burnham negotiating sessions, submitted a note to the teachers' spokesman — Mr Harry Jones — asking that the question of the revised offer and arbitration should be raised.

He said yesterday that he now wanted to know why Mr Jarvis did not put that question.

Mr Jarvis, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said that whatever the terms, arbitration was not an issue.

He said: "I did not quibble about terms of reference, but as I am concerned the crucial element is the Government's attitude, which is that there is no extra money to fund any award."

Mr Pearson said earlier that there was nothing to be gained by prolonging the dispute when the 6.06 per cent informal offer could not stay on the table indefinitely.

He believed that the union negotiators were seriously at risk of being out of tune with their membership.

He was speaking at the annual conference of the Council of Local Education Authorities, in Loughborough.

Mr Pearson said that with the present terms on offer as many as 20 local education authorities would be forced to test their ability to stop the teachers' strike.

Mr Pearson said that the Government's decision to fund the strike was a "major step forward" and that the Government was now the only way forward, the Assistant Masters and Mistresses Association's deputy general secretary, Mr Peter Smith claimed yesterday.

The "local authorities' offer was clearly inadequate, he said. "But everybody in the real business of negotiating knew it had to be." The capacity of the local authorities to respond to the teachers' demands would be even more limited once the Government decided on which authorities it was going to rate-cap.

Sir Keith Joseph, the Education Secretary, indicated the Commons that he would be highly sympathetic to the idea of a ballot of teachers on the pay offer, after the break-down in the talks.

He twice told MPs that he was not at all convinced that every individual teacher knew what was on offer.

In his letter to the Prime Minister, the Labour MP told Mrs Thatcher: "Reports continue to reach me from members of the US Congress with whom I have a working relationship in the course of my North Atlantic Assembly duties that suggest disturbing implications for the Royal Navy."

He wanted to know whether the Prime Minister was being kept fully informed by the US on the damage assessment and limitation exercises being conducted in Washington.

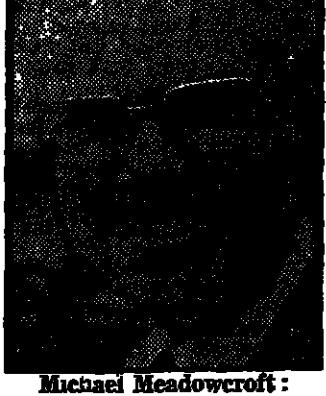
Mr Duffy said yesterday that it was vital that the US Navy got to the bottom of the matter and put the Royal Navy completely in the picture. He plans to raise the matter on the floor of the Commons.



Cyril Smith: Chairman of new party unit



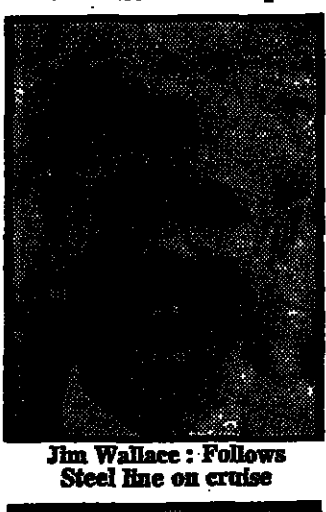
Alan Beith: Deputy leader with no official status



Michael Meadowcroft: Rejected offer



David Alton: Organiser becomes Chief Whip



Jim Wallace: Follows Steel line on cruise



Archie Kirkwood: Taking over as health spokesman

Steel assigns Smith to job of targeting Labour seats

By Colin Brown, Political Reporter

Mr Cyril Smith, the Liberal MP for Rochdale, was yesterday given the task of chairing a new Liberal unit aimed at winning Labour-held seats in a reshuffle.

Mr Smith's role will be to identify seats in the Labour heartlands that might fall to the Liberals and to step up his party's campaign. He has not held a post with the party since he fell out with Mr Steel over his style of leadership.

As expected, Mr Steel also announced that Mr Alan Beith would become his deputy, a role which has no constitutional status and will therefore not tie Mr Steel's hands.

Mr Beith will take on the foreign affairs portfolio from Sir Russell Johnston, who will concentrate on Scottish affairs.

One of the most interesting posts — Chief Whip of the party — vacated by Mr Beith, has gone to Mr David Alton (Scottish), Archie Kirkwood (health and social services), Richard Lacey (agriculture), David Penhaligon (Treasury), Stephen Ross (transport and Northern Ireland), Richard Wright (Employment), Jim Wallace (defence and deputy whip), Michael Meadowcroft (by-elections), Cyril Smith (Labour targeting unit).

The surprise in the reshuffle is that Mr Michael Meadowcroft is stepping down from his health and social services portfolio, which will now

be taken by Mr Archie Kirkwood.

Mr Meadowcroft was a strong contender for the Chief Whip's role and Mr Steel will be anxious to avoid Mr Meadowcroft feeling left out in the reshuffle.

It is understood the Liberal leader offered him another portfolio, but this was rejected. The post of defence spokesman has gone to Mr Jim Wallace, who supports Mr Steel on cruise.

The reshuffle was required to replace the Treasury spokesman, Mr Richard Wright, who is standing down at the next election. Mr David Penhaligon will shadow the Chancellor and Mr Wright will take over the Employment portfolio. The changes take effect on August 1.

The Liberal team is: David Alton (chief whip); Paddy Ashdown (trade and industry); Alan Beith (deputy leader and foreign affairs); Archie Kirkwood (health and social services); Richard Lacey (agriculture); David Penhaligon (Treasury); Stephen Ross (transport and Northern Ireland); Richard Wright (Employment); Jim Wallace (defence and deputy whip); Michael Meadowcroft (by-elections); Cyril Smith (Labour targeting unit).

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Hoteliers accused of cashing in on dole by overcharging jobless in DHSS survey

By David Hencke, Social Services Correspondent

Landlords running bed and breakfast hotels were deliberately overcharging unemployed people up to double the normal rates to cash in on social security payments, a report released by the Government said yesterday.

It alleges that landlords may have given false information to researchers to hide the true extent of their profiteering. In one case, a landlord is said to have explained to a researcher how she had deceived the Department of Health and Social Security.

The report by management consultants, Ernst and Whinney, has been released to MPs by Mr Norman Fowler, the Social Services Secretary, to justify his decision to halve board and lodgings payments to unemployed people living in social security in some cases.

Also introduced were two, four or eight week limits for

most people under 26 to be allowed to claim board and lodging. Ministers introduced this change to prevent what they called a "Costa del Dole" scandal where young unemployed people were attracted to seaside resorts to look for work.

The curbs, which came into force progressively after April 29, were attacked by Labour and Alliance MPs. The new rules are said to have prompted at least one suicide and an attempted suicide.

According to the report the minister's decisions were based on evidence from six out of 500 social security areas.

They included only one South Coast resort, Ramsgate; one London borough, Westminster; plus Reading, Southampton, the Ravenshurst office in Birmingham and the Castlegate office in Nottingham.

Evidence of differential pricing on a considerable scale was found in three areas — Ramsgate, Reading and Nottingham. In the other three areas there was little evidence.

In Ramsgate researchers found 17 hotels charging between £44 a week and £49 a week for board and lodging, compared with £24 and £29 a week for those in work.

One Reading landlord charged £55 a week for those on the dole, and £27 a week for those in work. The usual differential worked out at between £25 a week and £29 a week. In a few cases landlords actually charged the unemployed less than those in work.

All except Birmingham reported significant increases in claimants over the period before the cuts — figures varied from 87 per cent in Reading to 20 per cent in Southampton.

The report says that the numbers of board and lodgings charges appeared to vary considerably, and warned that the areas visited may not be typical.

In Reading, however, the researchers found evidence that owners of terraced houses and semi-detached were taking

claimants as a business. Some people had two or three houses and appointed agents to handle their business. Ramsgate owners were advertising in Liverpool, Birmingham and London to attract claimants.

Owners of large numbers of properties were more likely to offer sub-standard facilities, have overcrowded rooms and have less acceptable management practices. In Birmingham and Reading researchers found more claimants living in bed and breakfast hotels than in Department of Health and Social Security records revealed.

"Proprietors have been pricing in an opportunistic manner to the levels they consider the market will bear, rather than basing increased prices on increased costs," the report says.

"It concludes that the cost of providing accommodation for claimants is between £7 a week for a council tenant letting a single room, to £37 a week for a guest house room in a seaside resort."

Soviet ships steam to north-east Atlantic for wargame manoeuvres

By David Fairhall, Defence Correspondent

More than 50 Soviet warships are gathering in the North-east Atlantic, apparently to test their ability to stop Nato's wartime reinforcement of Norway and Denmark.

The full scale of the exercise is not yet clear. But Nato ships and aircraft shadowing the Soviet deployments have already identified groups emerging from the Baltic, the Mediterranean and the North-east Atlantic basins around Murmansk in what looks like concerted manoeuvres.

Over the next few days it could develop into the biggest demonstration of the Soviet Navy's expanding power since last spring's exercise — which

set new records for Soviet naval activity.

A spokesman for the Nato surveillance and coordination centre at Northwood, Middlesex, which is monitoring the Soviet exercise, said yesterday that it looked like "a major sea control exercise simulating measures to counter a reinforcement of Nato's northern flank."

The more spectacular units of the Soviet Navy's Atlantic fleet, the aircraft carriers and the Kirov class nuclear-powered battle cruisers, have not yet made an appearance.

But Nato intelligence has already been struck by the wide spread of the individual deployment and by the unusually large number of diesel-powered

submarines — four Whiskey class boats have already been sighted — that have emerged from the Baltic.

A group of surface warships from the Baltic fleet, led by the Kynda class cruiser Gromy, was yesterday approaching the Far Isle group between Orkney and Shetland, practising formation manoeuvres as it went.

An amphibious group based in the Baltic was heading for the Kattegat, while a flotilla of anti-submarine frigates and minesweepers lay at anchor off Denmark's Baltic coast. In mid-Atlantic, about 200 miles south of Greenland, was another group of surface warships led by a new Udaloy class

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David McKie

Dennis hits the scandal jackpot

HOW was it asked Roy Hattersley, gazing upon Dennis Skinner with a warning that few around him had previously suspected, that when Labour members below the gangway had been able to sniff out the signs of fraud at Johnson Matthey Bankers six weeks months ago, the Bank of England should have come round to the same conclusion only yesterday?

You could, though, turn the question round, and ask: How was it that when Mr Skinner and colleagues began hammering away at this issue last November the Labour front bench was so long apparently unready to pitch in with them?

Perhaps it was the failure of an earlier campaign begun by backbenchers and then taken up by Peter Shore, to discredit Mrs Thatcher over the Oman connection which held Mr Hattersley and colleagues back.

When a backbench campaign does not come off, it is quickly forgotten. When a front bench campaign fails to make its charges stick, the memory tends to linger on.

Still, few were disposed to deny Mr Skinner his moment of "Told you so" yesterday. The cheer which greeted him was of the kind reserved for elder statesmen.

The Chancellor might carefully have reminded us that no prima facie evidence of fraud existed in the JMB case. But the fact that a

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"serious and unexplained gap" had been found in the record was enough to convince most Labour MPs, even those who distrust him deeply, that Dennis's tenacity had this time paid off.

Mr Skinner himself was unflinching. All very well to put the police in now, he said, but if the Government had acted when he'd first raised the spectre in November, people could have been caught who might now get away scot-free.

Brian Sedgmore, who eight days ago was waving a fat green file and warning of the horrors it contained, now launched into a chronicle of alleged malfeasance of the kind that decorates the closing pages of Private Eye, an organ with which, as they say, he's thought to be not unconnected.

He hoped to be back next week, he announced, with more of the same.

You normally expect the Tory benches to close ranks and give nothing away when such a Skinner and Sedgmore are around, but that wasn't the case yesterday.

Eric Cockeram wanted to know why nothing had been done about evidence of fraud at Lloyd's, 12 months ago. Anthony Clancy-Smith, the DPP, he suspected, Viscount Cranborne too, wanted a JMB style probe into Lloyd's.

The Chancellor would not be drawn on that — though he seemed to be getting warning signals from the Speaker that references to Lloyd's, being unconnected with the JMB affair, were all out of order.

Nor would Mr Lawson agree to the full general inquiry into the affair which Roy Hattersley was demanding. As for the fact that seers like Skinner and Sedgmore had spotted what the Bank had not, Nigel had a ready answer for that. Such people, he said, went about suspecting fraud all the time.

Labour MPs saw a vicious contrast between Mr Lawson's disclosure of possible fraud by greedy people in high places and the statement which followed, in which Tom King removed the protection of the wages councils from some who now enjoy it.

Mr King had settled for change rather than abolition, a fact which Ian Gilmour, exploiting his position as a Privy Counsellor to get his question in first, was quick to hail as a victory for the Centre Forward school of Toryism.

Conservative backbenchers commending the King solution outnumbered those who condemned him for not going all the way, like Sir William Clark, who talked of workers "subjected" to wages councils.

The petulant tapping of Sir William's foot as he listened to Mr King's answer was one sign among several that this particular Tory battle is not over yet.

Well death accidental

By David Fairhall

A former Navy Minister, the Labour MP, Mr Patrick Duffy, has written to the Prime Minister warning her against a possible United States cover-up that would prevent the Royal Navy discovering just how much damage has been done by the Walker spy ring.

He is particularly concerned that Soviet submarines may have been launched from the alleged US Navy spies how to evade Nato's anti-submarine barriers in the north-east Atlantic and that the secret operations of Britain's Polaris nuclear missile submarines may have been compromised.

Mr John Walker, a retired US Navy warrant officer, his son, his brother, and a friend of the family, the recently retired naval communications specialist, Mr Jerry Whitworth, are among the codes and detailed operational information they were in a position to supply to the Soviet Union over many years would be much less valuable once the leakage was identified. Codes can be changed, for example.

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MP warns of US spying cover-up threat to Navy

By David Fairhall

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	25.50	25.50	100.00
Belgium	9.00	9.00	3.25
Denmark	9.00	9.00	2.00
France	9.00	9.00	1.75
Germany	9.00	9.00	1.75

هو من الامم المتحدة

Home Office team urges purpose-built unit

Prison's psychiatric wing found wanting by review

By Malcolm Dean

An internal Home Office review published yesterday said that the psychiatric wing of Holloway women's prison in London should be replaced by a purpose-built unit in the grounds.

Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, said yesterday he would set up an immediate feasibility study to look at the proposal. He accepted the review's conclusion that the CI wing was not meeting the needs of the prison's most highly-disturbed inmates.

The review committee was set up after widespread criticism of the management of Holloway, and coincided with the transfer of its governor, Miss Joy Kinsley, to Brixton prison.

Mr Brittan told MPs in a written Commons answer that he accepted the other main recommendations in the review, which included retaining the various specialist functions of the prison psychiatric wing, mother and baby unit, general medical wing, and closing the therapeutic unit for drug addicts until more sentenced women could be held in Holloway.

The proportion of remand prisoners has risen over the past 10 years and represents two-thirds of the 350 inmates. Mr Brittan said the relatively

short time prisoners spent at Holloway had limited the drug unit's role. Addicts would be treated on an individual basis.

The review says Holloway is the logical place for the specialist unit because of easy access to outside specialists in London and because it was the largest women's prison.

The committee accepted that the policy of the psychiatric unit was unclear. There was an "uneasy compromise" between "diametrically-opposed philosophies: one based on psychiatric treatment and the other on the application of ordinary prison rules."

Inmates in the CI wing were held on remand for between six and 18 days. There was accommodation for 44. They were unable to be held in psychiatric hospitals while on remand but were suffering from a wide variety of disorders: schizophrenia, personality disorder, epilepsy, and alcoholism.

More than a quarter were charged with offences involving personal violence.

The review accepts that far too much time is spent by Holloway prisoners in their cells rather than in association. One reason was the large number of prison officers who were absent every day on duty between the prison and the courts — as many as

75 out of the 225 in the prison.

Home Office officials admitted yesterday that even after all the fuss in the press and Parliament about the prison on most days there was still insufficient officers to escort CI women to a skilled training unit or ordinary prisoners to education or recreational facilities.

Ms Marie Staunton, speaking for the National Council for Civil Liberties and Mind (National Association for Mental Health) joint campaign against CI, rejected Mr Brittan's claim that there was no alternative to the unit.

She said: "We welcome the Home Secretary's acceptance of an urgent need for change but disagree on the report, which says there is no alternative to keeping these women in Holloway. They should be looked after by the National Health Service."

Ms Staunton said that the joint campaign would continue. The NCCL would be asking papers to see the Home Office over the treatment of two inmates of CI.

The psychiatrist, Dr Anthony Clare, and the Bishop of Stepney, would next week be publishing their report on whether treatment was possible in Holloway and whether it was morally right to keep women in the conditions of CI.



TRIBUTE TO SCIENTISTS: the Nobel prizewinner, Oxford's Emeritus Professor of Chemistry, Dorothy Hodgkin, and Lucasian Professor of Mathematics at Cambridge, Stephen Hawking with their portraits by Maggie Hambling and Yolande Sonnabend. Picture by Garry Weaser

GLC grants face cut to £20m

By Martin Linton

London boroughs will be asked tomorrow to approve a grants scheme with a budget of £20 million a year to take the place of the Greater London Council's £65 million grants programme when it is abolished next year.

The scheme was devised by a firm of London management consultants, Hay-MSL — a subsidiary of Saatchi and Saatchi. It will exclude many grants given by the GLC, and will work on the basis of a much tighter set of guidelines that ban grants to organisations not catering specifically for Londoners or whose prime aim is to campaign against existing Government policies.

Examples are the feminist magazine Spare Rib, Gay Men's Press, and the National Committee on Racism in Children's Books.

The proposed scheme would not exclude similar organisations which are clearly London-oriented, from applying for aid, such as the Feminist Library and Information Centre, Lesbian Line, a counselling service, and the Chinese Information and Advice Centre.

It would also accept applications from organisations which provide a service in London, and legitimately, as a second-ary activity, seek to change Government policy relating to their services, such as the British

Refugee Council, the National Council for One Parent Families, the Child Poverty Action Group or Shac, the London Housing Aid Centre.

But it would reject organisations whose prime aim is to persuade central government to change one of its national policies.

As examples of bodies that would need to reflect whether their campaigning activities made them ineligible, the scheme cites from the current list of GLC grants: London Region CND, Campaign Against Arms Trade, Abortion Law Reform Association, and the Campaign for Press and Broadcasting Freedom.

It would accept applications from London arts and sports organisations provided their services were not restricted to only one borough.

The Hay-MSL report points out that the strategy has not yet been determined and declares: "In the transitional period they should therefore all be included as eligible."

It recommends a staff of 32 for the grants unit, which would be based at Richmond. The administrative cost would be £547,000 a year.

The figure of 32 staff may have to rise, but it expects the new unit to be "more streamlined and integrated" than the GLC, which has a staff of about 250 dealing with its grants programme.

Drink-drive ban for Welsh pit leader

By Paul Royland

Two days after the miners' strike ended, police breathalysed the South Wales miners' president, Mr Emyln Williams, at a court in Mid Glamorgan, was told yesterday.

Mr Kevin Jones, a neighbour of Mr Williams, said he saw a police car and an unmarked vehicle parked near the British Legion Club in Cwmbach, Aberdare, at closing time on the evening of March 7. He claimed that he heard one officer say: "He's down there. We'll get the bastard tonight."

Shortly afterwards, Mr Williams, aged 64, was stopped by police as he drove from the club to his home at Bronhau, Cwmbach. When told he had

veered across the road, he replied: "Ah come on, I've been expecting this."

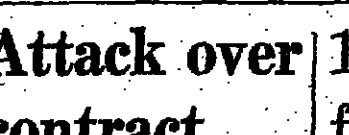
He failed to provide a breath sample and was taken to Aberdare police station, where a breath test revealed 52 micrograms of alcohol in 100 millilitres of breath. The legal limit is 35 micrograms.

Mr Williams, who pleaded not guilty to driving with excess alcohol, was fined £135 and disqualified from driving for one year.

Mr Evans Nicol, defending, told the court: "There was malpractice on the part of the police force and that was such that the evidence subsequently obtained should be disregarded. All the evidence has been obtained as a result of an entrapment, a trick."

Mr David Rowland, the stipendiary magistrate, accepted that Mr Williams had been unable to blow into an instrument in a police car because of chronic bronchitis and lung dust disease. In calmer circumstances, Mr Williams had managed to provide a sample at the police station. He dismissed a charge of failing to provide a specimen of breath.

Mr Rowland was not satisfied, however, that anything had been said about "getting the bastard" to the miners' leader by his name.



Emyln Williams: 'expected to be stopped'

Attack over 12 Vikings found

By Sarah Boseley

The first local authority in the country fully to privatise its public cleaning and refuse collection services, yesterday renewed the contract for nearly half a million pounds over the past four years.

Mr Norman Clark, the leader of Southend Borough Council, said that Exclusive Cleaning Services Ltd, the private contractor, had saved the council nearly half a million pounds over the past four years.

But Mr Trevor Wright, the National Union of Public Employees area officer for Essex, who wrote to the council in May asking to be allowed to submit a tender for the council to re-run its own 10-hour, buy back its vehicles, and resume running the service itself, claimed that privatisation is costing ratepayers more than it should.

Mr David Evans, chairman of the Brengreen group, which owns Exclusive Cleaning, said yesterday that conditions for customers and other cleaners had improved since his company took on the £1.8 million contract, which had risen to £2.25 million over four years.

BODIES of a dozen Viking warriors have been discovered some 900 years after they died in one of England's bloodiest battles.

Water board workmen discovered their burial ground in a wharfedale as they began construction of a new flood bank by the river Ouse in North Yorkshire.

The skeletons were unearthed by the driver of a mechanical digger near the village of Easingwold, between York and Selby, 20 miles from the site of the battle of Stamford Bridge in 1066.

Then 300 shiploads of Vikings under Harold Godwinson were slaughtered by the English led by Harold Godwinson, who was himself to die three weeks later struck by an arrow in the eye at the Battle of Hastings.

Thousands of Vikings died at Stamford Bridge and only 24 ships were needed to carry the survivors home.

Forensic scientists have taken one skeleton away for routine tests on the coroner's orders and archaeologists from the York Archaeological Trust are examining others. Work on the flood bank has been suspended for further excavations.

Court criticises deaf case

Magistrates who heard a prosecution against a deaf man, with no legal representation or sign language interpreter, were criticised in the High Court in London yesterday.

Lord Justice Watkins said: "There should not be an occasion when a man who is handicapped is without assistance either from an interpreter or legal representation — or both."

The judge refused to exercise his discretion to quash the conviction on Stephen James Davy, aged 29, for driving with excess alcohol because he had pleaded guilty and had not complained that the year's driving ban and £100 fine was unfair.

Mr Giles Eyre, for Mr Davy argued: "It is a very serious matter when a person in court is not able to hear the case put against him, even if he does plead guilty."

Mr Davy, a metalworker of Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey, who has been deaf since birth, did not understand what was said in court, Mr Eyre said.

Lord Justice Watkins said Kingston magistrates had adjourned the case once to find an interpreter but when the hearing resumed the interpreter's car broke down.

The magistrates decided to carry on because they were concerned that Mr Davy should not have to appear in court again.

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Whitehall ready to defy task force

0-110000

Labour looks to private and public cash for regional boost

in the North.



Mr. Cohen : : Tighten law

Mr Cohen • 'Tighten law'

THE GOVERNMENT has received the interim report of the Popplewell Committee — a special inquiry into safety.

Mr John Prescott, the Shadow Employment Secretary, said the Government ought to be "ashamed" of its decision to break its international obli-



increase the number of jobs. Sir Ian Gilmore (C), Amersham and Chesham, congratulated Mr King on his sensible decision to improve rather than abolish wages councils, but added that the whole question was "pretty marginal" to the matter of unemployment.

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We both want to get Second Readings debates in both Houses in October to coincide with the Commonwealth Conference in the Bahamas and when Mrs Thatcher stands up and says Britain is against sanctions, we will make sure all the Commonwealth members have got copies of our bills."

Although the bills stand virtually no chance of becoming law, Lord Hatch and Mr. Hornsby plan to re-introduce them after the State Opening of Parliament in November.

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Lawns were made for us. Flymo

Flymo

Leaving France without tears

From our own Correspondent in Paris

The former American Ambassador here, Mr Evan Galbraith, who made a few waves during his three-and-a-half years in Paris, left the American Charge d'Affaires and the French Foreign Ministry bobbing around in choppy water yesterday.

Mr Galbraith, who was what professional diplomats often describe as a "non-career appointment," left Paris on Monday to return to banking in New York. He was not, therefore, any longer ambassador when the newspaper, *Le Figaro*, yesterday published a full-page interview. He had been ambassador when he talked to a journalist about his time in France.

Yesterday, the Foreign Ministry summoned the American Charge to protest about something which Mr Galbraith had said. This is taken to be his response to a question about the result of next spring's National Assembly elections.

Mr Galbraith said he knew more than the opinion polls suggested but thought it was obvious that the opposition would win. He also said the Communist Party should be outlawed and he would like to see France choosing a policy of free enterprise since international conditions were favourable to expansion.

That may not be what an embattled Socialist government wants to hear, but yesterday's encounter at the Quai d'Orsay was not thought to have been a blistering affair. The French simply wanted to draw the American Charge's attention to a technical foul.

Mr Galbraith evoked cries of pain and protest from the American foreign service earlier this year when he criticised them for being much too he was publicly rebuked by the former prime minister, Mr. Bland. In February last year, Pierre Mauroy for disparaging remarks he made about the Transport Minister, Mr Charles Fiterman, a Communist, whom he described as "an unfortunate Frenchman who has gone astray." The embassy said later he had been misquoted.

Mr Evan Galbraith

Way clear for Bonn envoy

From Mark Tran in Washington

The scourge of the State Department, the right-wing senator, Mr Jesse Helms, from North Carolina, finally cleared the way for Mr Richard Burt, an arms control specialist and the department's top European affairs official, to become the United States Ambassador to West Germany.

Mr Helms had been effectively holding Mr Burt and other nominees hostage until he received assurances that several non-career political appointees serving as ambassadors or in the State Department would be retained or offered other positions.

Mr Helms and other like-minded colleagues had used delaying tactics in the case of 20 nominations. On Tuesday, the Senate confirmed the appointment of Mr Burt, named Mrs Rozanne Ridgway to succeed him as assistant Secretary of State for European and Canadian affairs, and Mr Edwin Corr as ambassador to El Salvador.

Mr Helms has made life difficult for Mr Burt before. When he was nominated to his present post, Mr Helms accused him of revealing secrets while a reporter on national security issues for the New York Times. Mr Burt's nomination was held up for several months until the senator relented. Mr Helms and Senator Barry Goldwater (Republican, Arizona) this time criticised Mr Burt's policies in dealing with Eastern Europe and once again attacked his work as a reporter. The chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Mr Richard Lugar (Republican, Indiana) rose to Mr Burt's defence.

Mitterrand launches Eureka summit with £84m credit

Marketing the key to technology, says Britain

From Campbell Page in Paris

Britain yesterday emphasised the need for a practical approach as foreign and technology ministers from 17 countries met here to discuss President Mitterrand's Eureka initiative for the coordination of European efforts in high technology.

Manufacturers and their customers should have a dominant voice in choosing projects, Britain said. The fundamental need was to identify, together with industry, the market sectors which should be exploited on a European scale and only then to decide which technologies and projects were necessary to exploit those sectors.

It was important to choose projects with a potential in the world market, and also to create a European home market which was as big as the United States or Japan.

After consulting some British companies, Britain argued that Eureka should have a few market-led themes rather than a lot of narrower market segments. Examples were:

Eurotrans in the field of transportation, which would embrace high-speed ground transport, air traffic control, mobile digital radio, and post office automation and would involve new materials, control systems, tunnelling, robotics, and speech and image processing; **Eurojet**, meaning factory of the future, which would involve new materials, lasers, robotics, software, microelectronics and human interfacing; and **Eurohome**, or home technology,

which would include home information and entertainment, domestic appliances, associated control systems, and the development of common standards.

British companies had endorsed the market-led approach and the need for closer cooperation in exploiting technology rather than in research and development as such.

Yesterday's meeting, three months after President Mitterrand launched the Eureka project, was an encouraging event for France. At first Eureka was seen by some European countries as an improbable challenge to the technological spin-off being offered to Europe by President Reagan's Strategic Defence Initiative, but has since aroused more enthusiasm.

President Mitterrand, as the author of the initiative, announced an £83 million French credit for the development of Eureka projects in 1985.

Ministers yesterday were expected to agree on criteria for choosing Eureka projects, to assess the financial and technological resources at their disposal, and to decide on a structure for the future.

Mr Mitterrand, opening the conference, told the delegates: "There will be many hurdles... But we also know that every time we have come together, we have come up with great things." He warned implicitly that Europe's failure to cooperate on technology now could spell the difference between continued world prominence and gradual decline.

Early Belgian poll may mark return to murky politicking

Brussels: A political crisis that has forced an early general election in October could mark the end of a rare period of stable government and a return to murky, old-style politicking, commentators said yesterday.

King Baudouin on Tuesday refused to accept the resignation of the Prime Minister, Mr Wilfried Martens, after a cabinet row between the francophone Liberals (PRL) and Christian Democrats (PSC), ostensibly about blame for the European Cup soccer final riot on May 28 in which 38 people were killed.

But the true between the deputy premiers, Mr Jean Gol (PRL) and Mr Charles-Ferdinand Norbom (PSC), the justice and interior ministers, will only enable the Government to

enact a minimum programme before a poll on October 13, two months early. Mr Martens will present these measures, including vote-winning cuts but not a 1986 budget, to Parliament today.

His four-party, centre-right Government has forced drastic austerity on Belgium during the last 3½ years, eased the wage and tax burden on business and the rich, and presided over the deployment of US cruise medium-range nuclear missiles.

When Mr Martens' Government took office, debt-ridden Belgium, home of the European Community and Nato headquarters, was widely regarded as the sick man of Europe. It has had 32 governments since the Second World War and seemed close to break-up about conflicts be-

Domingo sings for home town

From Jane Walker in Madrid

THE SPANISH tenor, Mr Plácido Domingo, will tonight star in Verdi's *Othello* before an audience of 40,000. The performance is the singer's gift to the people of the city of his birth and will be attended by the largest audience ever to be present at a live opera. It is being staged in a football stadium.

"I believe Caruso once performed before about 20,000 in a bullring in Mexico," said Mr Domingo yesterday. "The biggest open-air theatre is in Verona and seats around 22,000 so I

don't think so many people will ever have attended an opera at one time before." He admitted that performing before such a large audience was something of an experiment and created problems of sheer size. "Obviously we will lose some of the intimacy of a theatre, but we hope that the grandiosity of the site will make up for that — particularly as many of the audience will be seeing an opera for the first time in their lives."

The set, which is similar in style to the one used in the three performances of *Othello*, which Mr Domingo has just sung in a Madrid

theatre, has had to be specially built to fit the huge space. It measures 35 metres by 23 metres, and is 18 metres high.

Mr Domingo will appear in the title role, with Pilar Lorengar as Desdemona and Silvano Caroli as Iago. They specially requested that the tickets should be priced to make them available to everyone.

The prices range from 40p to £4, and the organisers only expect to recoup about one-fifth of the £220,000 investment from ticket sales. The rest is being covered by grants from the Ministry of

Culture and the City of Madrid.

Although this is the first time Mr Domingo has staged an opera on such a large scale, he is no stranger to performing before mass audiences—250,000 are estimated to have heard him in a concert in Central Park, New York, four years ago, and in the summer of 1982 he gave a recital to another 300,000 in a large open-air forum in Madrid University.

He said that if the Madrid performance is a success he hoped to be able to repeat the opera before wider audiences in other cities in Spain and abroad.



HOCH! A West Berlin wine salesman, Victor Kattinger, raises a glass of diethylene glycol-free Austrian wine, officially guaranteed pure by health inspectors and released for sale yesterday. Thousands of bottles of Austrian wine remain under embargo while tests are performed. The anti-freeze additive, with which unscrupulous exporters "cut" their stocks, can kill or cause kidney damage

Early Belgian poll may mark return to murky politicking

SA 'reply inadequate'

THE HAGUE: The Netherlands Government yesterday rejected as "totally inadequate" South Africa's statement on the seizure of a Dutchman from the Dutch embassy in Pretoria, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

The statement, delivered by South Africa's ambassador, Mr David Vrede Lome, "did not meet the demands" by Holland that South Africa return Mr Klass de Jonge, a detainee under Pretoria's security laws, to the Dutch embassy.

The Dutch Government had also demanded, by Thursday morning, apologies, "appropriate measures" against the police officers responsible, and a guarantee that such incidents would not occur again.—AP.

Bergen councillors veto Frank tribute

From Anna Tomforde in Bonn

The people of Bergen will continue, for the time being, to live without any visible reminder that Anne Frank, the Jewish child diarist, was among the more than 100,000 people who died in the Nazi concentration camp at nearby Bergen.

The conservative majority on the town council, supported by the liberal Free Democrats, rejected a proposal by the Social Democrats to rename Anne Frank Street the main road leading to the camp.

There was also widespread opposition to the idea among the 13,000 people of Bergen.

future, most probably by naming a school or monument after her.

Most of the older inhabitants of Bergen argued that the camp, now a memorial site, Jewish child diarist, was among the more than 100,000 people who died in the Nazi concentration camp at nearby Bergen.

But some younger people said that exactly by deciding in favour of an Anne Frank street, "those who lived through the war could have acknowledged their own individual responsibility."

However, the embarrassment caused by the controversy, 40 years after the end of the war, was apparently not sufficient to sway the opinion of the 23 Christian Democrat and FDP councillors and settle the issue once and for all.

Reagan on mend, but doctor queries clean bill of health

From Alex Brunner in Washington

President Reagan is expected to return to the White House at the weekend, in time to hold talks with China's President Li Xianlian. Mr George Bush said last night after visiting Mr Reagan in his hospital room, the Vice President said that Mr Reagan was "running high and looking good."

But although Mr Reagan appears to be making a robust recovery from his abdominal operation, cancer experts are beginning to openly question the generally optimistic prognosis given by Dr Steven Rosenberg when he unveiled the pathology results on the tumour removed from Mr Reagan's colon.

A colleague at the National Cancer Institute, Dr Paul Sugarbaker, said that Dr Rosenberg was "somewhat inaccurate" in his account of Mr Reagan's cancer. He said he had been told by Dr Rosenberg that the cancer had pushed through the muscle layer, Mr Reagan's intestine, which means that the malignancy had more serious implications.

Dr Sugarman said he had been told by his colleague that Mr Reagan's tumour was classified as Dukes B-2 which means

that it had penetrated further through the muscle layers of Mr Reagan's colon and posed a greater threat of spreading to other organs in the body.

Despite the emergence of more gloomy accounts of Mr Reagan's illness, the White House continued to stress yesterday the strong recovery of Mr Reagan. Mr Bush, when he arrived for his first meeting with the President since last Thursday, found Mr Reagan waiting at the door of his hospital room.

A sign of his improvement came when doctors removed the nasal-gastric tube which kept Mr Reagan's stomach empty. Mr Reagan immediately quipped "anyone for tennis," and later said "felt like Christmas in July."

The process of restoring him to a more normal diet can now begin. His first liquid foods included ice lollies, soup, tea and apple juice, said his spokesman, Mr Larry Speakes. The meeting between Mr Reagan and Mr Bush attracted a great deal of attention. The Vice-President has been kept very much on the sidelines since Mr Reagan's operation; the administration chief-of-staff, Mr Donald Reagan, has taken control of the White House. There have been some signs of tension between the two men over the way affairs

have been handled in the past few days.

The White House as deliberately appeared to shun Mr Bush aside for fear of creating the impression that he was moving closer to the presidency. The objective has been to keep Mr Bush's profile low by limiting his opportunities to stand in for the President.

But with increasing public interest in Mr Bush's absence from the scene, the two men held extensive conversations yesterday on a range of issues from the budget to agriculture.

Mr Reagan urged Mr Bush to seek an early solution to the budget deadlock when he met congressional leaders later yesterday and today.

Mr Bush was effusive in his praise for Mr Reagan. The President was clearly as read up as if he were sitting in the Oval Office, the Vice-President said, adding: "I think he hurts from time to time."

Mr Nancy Reagan was the President's first visitor yesterday morning, clearing from his room at the Bethesda Naval Hospital some six miles out of Washington, she said her husband was "feeling high."

Mrs Reagan, who reportedly allowed "the good-gates" of her emotions to open in the White House on Saturday night, is maintaining her public schedule.

Worldwide wishes

From Donnie Radcliffe in Washington

If it sings, soars, cheers or blooms, chances are that President Reagan has received one.

White House spokesmen said that "hundreds and hundreds" of telegrams, letters, cards and other get-well messages are arriving daily for Mr Reagan from all over the world and in all languages.

In addition to bouquets of flowers, a card that sings "tomorrow" and a telegram signed by 2,000 summer campers in New York State, a batch of 200 balloons inscribed "get well" from the comedian, Joan Rivers, has also arrived.

Mrs Nancy Reagan, back in the all-too-familiar role she filled in 1961, is going to be in hospital, is not going empty-handed. She took Miss Rivers' balloons with her on Tuesday as well as a Snoopy puzzle sent to him by a White House volunteer.

Many of the get-well wishes are from close friends, and Mrs Reagan personally carried those to the Bethesda hospital. Other messages come from world leaders and fall into the Soviet leader, Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, for instance, expressed his sympathy through diplomatic channels.



Like father, like son

New York: Former ballet dancer Ron Reagan (above), President Reagan's 27-year-old son, will join ABC Entertainment as a television reporter specialising in celebrity interviews and special events, an ABC spokesman said yesterday.

Mr Reagan was expected to begin work under a one-year contract within a few days, ABC said.

The President's son has written articles for several national magazines in the past few years.

His father, recuperating in hospital from cancer surgery, was once a radio broadcaster. — Reuters.

Poisoning scheme revealed

STANFORD, California: US Scientists secretly proposed to poison Germans and Japanese during the Second World War by lacing milk with radioactive strontium and dusting crops with nuclear wastes, a Stanford University professor said this week.

Partially declassified government papers show that a panel of scientists first proposed such attacks seven months before the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour, the history professor, Barton Bernstein said.

The panel, chaired by the Nobel prize-winning physicist, Arthur Compton, initially gave radiological warfare top priority, ahead of atomic bombs and nuclear-powered ships, said Professor Bernstein.

His report appears in the August issue of the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists.

The professor said it is unclear from the partially declassified British and US documents whether President Roosevelt knew about the scientists' interest in radiological weapons. However, the papers indicate there was fear at high levels of a German radiological attack on the US he said.

Scientists with sensitive recording instruments were sent under high security to Washington, New York, San Francisco, Boston and Chicago to interpret data if a radioactive attack was suspected, Dr Compton wrote.

In 1945, a pioneer of atomic power, Enrico Fermi, who worked under Dr Compton at the Chicago Metallurgical Laboratory, secretly proposed using products of nuclear fission to poison the enemy's food supply, Professor Bernstein wrote.

The physicist J. Robert Oppenheimer, the director of the Atomic Bomb Laboratory at Los Alamos, New Mexico, emphasised a need for great secrecy about the proposal, even keeping it from Dr Compton, Professor Bernstein said.

Increase in air war by Salvador

From Dan Williams in San Salvador

The air war in El Salvador, an object of mixed military reviews and heavy criticism from human rights groups, is growing in intensity as the armed forces have acquired more and more weaponry.

The bombs dropped by the country's small fleet of jet fighters are heavier than those dropped last year. More rockets are being fired from increasing numbers of helicopters that also are armed with rapid-fire machine guns. Slowly, the number of planes flying over the countryside with thousands of bullets.

The combat fleet is expected to grow further, a reflection of Salvadoran and US military opinion that the air war has crippled the five-year-old leftist insurgency here. Almost the entire Salvadoran air force is US-supplied.

Increased firepower, coupled with sophisticated aerial reconnaissance, by the US-piloted planes, has had one big achievement: discouraging the rebels from massing troops for large-scale attacks. It is not clear, however, whether aerial attacks actually kill many guerrillas.

It is difficult to verify any of those claims because the guerrillas have mined many of the approaches to the areas they control.

However, interviews with refugees from the three most frequently bombed regions, and with relief workers with access to battle zones, yielded little evidence to support allegations of widespread bombing. None the less, with increasingly powerful bombs, more stranding and the rebels, pent-up for living with or near their families and supporters, the menace to civilians appears real.

The Salvadoran air force is dropping an average of 125 bombs a month this year, compared with 140 in 1984, according to US figures. However, last year, most of the bombs dropped were 500lb explosives. This year, more than half of the charges weigh 700lb.

The armed forces believe the air war to be quite effective. "The subversives would not be complaining about bombing if it wasn't hurting them," a spokesman, Major Carlos Aviles, said.

American military advisers working in El Salvador disapprove of relying too heavily on air power. "One of the concerns is that the Salvadoreans should not develop a firepower mentality," a military adviser said. "An air system is not going to win the war." — Los Angeles Times.

Coup chiefs 'knew about atrocities'

From Jeremy Morgan in Buenos Aires

An army officer who served during the military regime's "dirty war" of the 1970s told the trial of Argentina's former commanders that they must have been aware of the atrocities taking place during the repression.

Captain Carlos Alberto Lorusso, a psychiatrist serving in the army after the military coup in 1976, said in evidence that "the commanders-in-chief were not ignorant of the atrocities that were committed during the anti-subversive struggle, because it was them who gave the directives and guidelines to each force."

Captain Lorusso's testimony is likely to be important because the nine officers on trial are charged with ordering, leading and supervising a crackdown in which at least 8,000 people vanished after the armed forces seized power.

More than a score of military officers, most of them now in retirement, have testified but their statements have proved mostly vague, evasive or apparently untrue. Evidence now being considered concerns one of the most notorious secret torture and detention centres, the navy's Mechanics School. Earlier this week, Dr Emilio Mignone, one of Argentina's leading human rights campaigners, told the court that his daughter, Monica, had been seen at the navy centre, and had talked three times with one of the defendants, Admiral Emilio Massera, who, as head of the navy, was a leading partner in the military takeover.

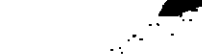
Human rights campaigners have alleged that Admiral Massera's naval force was even more extreme than the army and the air force.

A navy captain, whose daughter disappeared in 1976, told the court he had held secret conversations with Admiral Massera who, he said, "knew perfectly well what was happening."

The prosecutor meanwhile informed the court his office had received two telephone calls threatening him with "execution within the next 48 hours."

Several weeks ago the court ordered better police protection for witnesses. Since then the wife of one of the key witnesses was kidnapped, tortured and told to give up documents that could link the former police chief, General Ramon Camps, with human rights crimes.

... ..



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NEWS
IN BRIEFBombing
suspect
freed

A FRENCH businessman sought in connection with the sabotage of the Greenpeace ship, *Rainbow Warrior*, has been freed in Australia after night-long questioning, New Zealand Police said yesterday.

They said the man, who has not been named, was detained by Australian authorities as he arrived from Norfolk Island.

He was interviewed overnight by a New Zealand detective and released yesterday in Sydney. Australian police said the man had no role in the bombing of the Greenpeace ship.

Cyprus pact

TWO Turkish-Cypriot parties with a combined majority in the parliament of the breakaway northern Cyprus state agreed yesterday to form a coalition government, party officials said.

The parties will present a cabinet list to the Turkish-Cypriot leader, Mr Rauf Denktash by Friday.

Tank trials

BRITISH Challenger tanks are being tested in the southern desert of Saudi Arabia, which is considering them for its armed forces, British diplomats reported yesterday.

The report, recently published in the Cyprus-based Middle East Times, — AP.

Gold haul

BANGLADESH police held a British and Singaporean yesterday in what they called the country's biggest seizure of smuggled gold in the past 14 years, at Dhaka airport.

Scientist missing

A MEMBER of the Soviet Academy of Science specialising in the "nuclear winter" theory has been missing since April, police and Soviet Embassy spokesmen said yesterday.

Mr Vladimir Alexandrov was last seen in Madrid on April 1.

Funeral plans

HEINRICH Ball, the Nobel prize-winning West German author who died on Tuesday aged 67, will be buried in a private ceremony attended only by close family members, sources said yesterday.

Briton verdict

A DISTRICT Court in Taiwan convicted a British seaman yesterday on a charge of murder and sentenced him to 10 years in gaol for starting a fire on board a British freighter that killed three people. He is Robert Meaton, aged 28, of Sunderland. An appeal is expected.

Soccer hero

A LIVERPOOL soccer fan, John Welsh, who saved eight Juventus fans trapped during the European Cup final disaster in Brussels, yesterday received a "solidarity" prize for his action, presented by the organisers of Handfest, an international sport and culture meeting held in Fondi, central Italy.

Gaolers gaoled

SPAIN'S Supreme Court in Madrid, in an unprecedented sentence, has gaoled nine prison officers for ill-treating inmates. The nine, including a former prison director, Santiago Martinez Motos, received sentences ranging from two to 10 months for beating prisoners.

Poll ruling

JAPAN'S Supreme Court yesterday ruled that the country's December 1983 election was unconstitutional, but said that Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone's Government could stay in power. The court found that some city areas had four or five times the number of voters per candidate than rural districts.

PLO bombed

THE PLO's acting chief representative in Cyprus, Mr Malah Abdou, aged 39, escaped uninjured yesterday when a bomb wrecked his home in Nicosia. Many Arab homes there have guards following guerrilla attacks.

Finnish protest

FINNISH Communists have urged the Government to block a protest cruise along the Soviet coast to Helsinki by Baltic refugees protesting against Moscow's human rights record.

Bus hits tanker

AMMAN: Twenty-two Egyptians were killed and 24 were injured when their bus caught fire after hitting a parked Iraqi tanker near the Jordan-Iraq border, police said yesterday.

Peres holds meeting with
senior West Bank leadersIsraelis send
mixed signals
on prospects
for talks

From Ian Black
in Jerusalem

The prospect of direct peace talks between Israel and a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation was as confused as ever last night after a day of mixed signals and complex political manoeuvring about who the Government here is prepared to negotiate with.

The Prime Minister, Mr Shimon Peres, and the Foreign Minister, Yitzhak Shamir, reiterated that Israel remained opposed to a preliminary dialogue between the US and

added: "The best way to get out of this terrible situation is through peace talks. The mayor has recently been in Jordan and Mr Al-Masri left for Amman yesterday."

Reacting to the meeting, the deputy foreign minister, Mr Roni Milo, a senior Likud leader, said that such contacts could push the US into direct talks with the PLO. "The real problem is not this meeting," he said. "The problem is this process in which the Palestinian part will be nominated by and represent the PLO."

To complicate matters further, the 10-man inner cabinet was yesterday shown a list of names said to be Mr Arafat's choice of potential Palestinian participants in the joint delegation with Jordan.

The list was reported to be made up of second-ranking representatives of the PLO and the Palestine National Council, the organisation's "parliament". But there are no names from the occupied territories, a fact which was immediately criticised in the West Bank.

Mr Said Kana'an of Nablus, said: "I am really sad. I really wanted the occupied territories to be represented in the negotiations."

Other West Bankers said they believe that Mr Arafat's list was an opening gambit and that negotiations could follow.

Israel's two chief rabbis are refusing to drop their demand that Ethiopian immigrants undergo ritual immersion to turn them into "complete" Jews. The two rabbis, representing the Ashkenazi (Western) and Sephardi (Oriental) communities, said here yesterday: "We recognise the Ethiopian Jewish community as Jewish, but over thousands of years there was a lot of mixing (intermarriage with non-Jews) and the immersion assures they are totally Jewish."

Jet tape
points
to blast

From our Correspondent
in New Delhi

PRELIMINARY examination of the cockpit voice recorder of the Air India Boeing 747 which crashed in the Atlantic last month, killing all 235 people aboard, indicates a mid-air explosion.

The Press Trust of India said last night that the initial phase of decoding the flight data recorder gave "definite clues" of a mid-air explosion.

Earlier investigators and aviation experts who listened to the cockpit voice recorder were said to have established that the terminations of communication between the aircraft and the ground station was "sudden and abrupt".

An Indian scientist said unofficially that conversation on the tape ran normally until just 15 seconds before it ended with "some sounds". He did not give details.

Mr K. N. Sharma, secretary to the commission of inquiry into the crash, told media last night: "The conversation on the tape comes to an abrupt end and there are also sounds of the aircraft's engine."

The pilot's voice on the recorder seconds before the disaster is believed to be completely normal. He was giving his altitude, flight direction and speed.

Copy of the recording was brought to Delhi yesterday for the Indian Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, a former airline pilot who is taking personal interest in the inquiry.

The evidence has strengthened the theory of sabotage but the experts say that only an in-depth analysis will establish this as fact. One of the five assessors helping the inquiry said that while it is almost certain that the aircraft disintegrated in mid-air, the investigators may yet have to recover the main fuselage of the crashed jumbo to establish the cause.

Complete decoding of the flight data recorder will take time, Mr Sharma said. "It may take weeks or even months as we have to analyse the 64 parameters recorded for 25 hours on the four-track magnetic tape."

Mr Gandhi has meanwhile revealed that the Government has obtained a video film giving "graphic indications" of how anti-Indian terrorists are trained in camps in the United States.

In an interview with the Bombay magazine *Bhaskar*, Mr Gandhi said that he had taken up the matter with the US Government.



Syrian observers check security at Beirut airport as part of the peace plan.

Kuwaiti assembly gets
tough with terrorists

KUWAIT: The National Assembly has passed a tough anti-subversion bill which mandates death by hanging or imprisonment for life for anyone who attempts to overthrow the government.

The legislation was drafted after a failed car bomb attempt in May on the life of the Emir, Sheikh Jaber al-Ahmed al-Sabah.

The bill was approved by all but one of 41 parliamentary deputies who attended the debate on Tuesday.

Another deputy, meanwhile, revealed that those responsible for the restaurant explosions which killed eight people last week remained at large. "The Government has yet to lay

explosions," Mr Hadi Hayef, chairman of the assembly's interior and defence committee said.

The anti-subversion bill, which now goes to the Emir for approval, proposes hanging or life imprisonment for bomb attacks against people, state and public facilities, mosques and other public places.

It also specifies gaol terms, in certain cases of at least 10 years, and heavy fines for illegal possession of arms, explosives and smuggling of explosives, and for failing to disclose information on bombers or helping them to escape.

In another move, the National Assembly, voted yesterday to cancel formal

pledged to "frontline" soldiers, handing Israel under a 1978 Arab summit resolution, Baghdad. The vote was taken in a closed session at which the Government agreed to accept a budget ceiling for foreign aid without earmarking fixed sums for specific countries.

The nine-member finance committee proposed an end to the so-called steadfastness, a year after the Lebanese parliament of what they said was abuse in the way it had been spent. They also proposed continued adherence to the Baghdad accord while other negotiators failed to meet their commitments.

Mr Hadi Hayef, chairman of the assembly's interior and defence committee said.

The nine-member finance committee proposed an end to the so-called steadfastness, a year after the Lebanese parliament of what they said was abuse in the way it had been spent. They also proposed continued adherence to the Baghdad accord while other negotiators failed to meet their commitments.

Kiribati makes Pacific waves with Soviet connection

From David Robie
in Butaritari, Tarawa Atoll

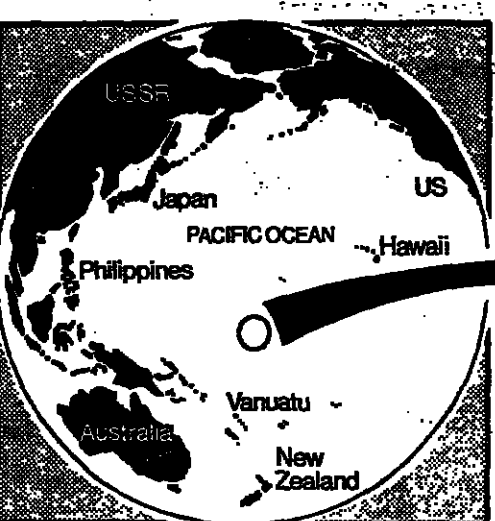
POACHING by American fishermen has forced at least two vulnerable South Pacific countries to open their vast stretches of ocean to the Soviet Union.

The Government of Kiribati has said that it will press ahead with a proposed Soviet tuna fishing deal in defiance of mounting opposition at home and in other Pacific countries.

Neighbouring Tuvalu, which like Kiribati was once part of the mid-Pacific British colony known as the Gilbert and Ellice Islands, is also suing a Soviet offer and is likely to go ahead.

Angered by non-stop American poaching of tuna inside their 200-mile economic zones, the two countries began to consider Soviet offers last year, while Washington was beginning negotiations with member countries of the South Pacific Forum's fisheries agency in an attempt to draw up a regional fisheries treaty.

Both Kiribati, which has a population of 63,000 spread among 33 tiny islands and



atolls, and Tuvalu, with a population of 8,000, are among the world's poorest countries with few resources. The Soviet state fisheries agency, Sovfriflot, last month offered Kiribati \$1.2 million for a year-long tuna fisheries licence and the government here is now drawing up a draft agreement.

Australia and New Zealand have been among the harshest critics. So has the

nearby Marshall Islands republic, which is still part of the US-administered Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands and hosts the huge US ballistic missile testing range on Kwajalein atoll. American military authorities fear increased surveillance of Kwajalein activities by spy ships posing as fishing boats.

Although Kiribati is not the only reason, it has contributed to a recent decision

by New Zealand to step up diplomatic, aid and defence activity in the Pacific. New Zealand's own ban on nuclear-armed or powered warships, which shook the 33-year-old ANZUS alliance with Australia and the US, had already made the region's politics highly sensitive.

The President, Mr Jeremiah Taba, strongly defended his country's plans before leav-

Leaders
plot next
step to
peace

Beirut: A high-powered security committee, including Syrian observers, held talks yesterday on the next steps to end militia control of West Beirut after militiamen were cleared from the streets of the mainly-Muslim sector of the city.

Committee sources quoted the Defence Minister, Mr Adel Ossairan, as saying all parties concerned were co-operating in carrying out a Syrian-backed plan for ending anarchy in West Beirut. Residents in the area, torn by inter-Muslim fighting, had their quietest night in months after militia closed down all but head offices when the plan took effect.

Security sources, however, said there was sporadic sniping overnight on the Green Line dividing West and Christian East Beirut. The first stage of the plan does not include the battlefront. Mr Ossairan said in a statement the committee had "decided to ask security forces to seize every visible weapon" and would study ways of licensing arms, curbing bought and sold without restriction. He did not say what arms would be collected.

Committee sources said Beirut municipality workers and 100 boy scouts were to begin removing militia posters plastered on walls yesterday. The posters would also be removed.

Mr Ossairan said the committee, which includes five Syrian observers, had visited Beirut airport to check on steps to tighten security there following the Trans World Airlines (TWA) hijacking. Syria is supervising enforcement of the plan, which follows an agreement reached between Muslim leaders last week to renounce their tanks as a step towards reviving peace talks with Lebanon's Christians.

Syrian newspapers hailed the agreement as an important move towards restoring national unity. The Lebanese people should seize this golden opportunity to end the Lebanese civil war, they said. The semi-official Syria Times said, urging Muslims and Christians to "accelerate efforts to establish a new, healthy situation in the country."

ing on a state visit to China in late June. "The Russians want to fish our waters and we don't see anything wrong with it," he said. "It is purely economic."

However, the negotiations have split public opinion here. Opposition MPs are planning to call an emergency session of the Maneaba-ni-Maungatabu (Parliament) and they have urged the Government to heed Russian and New Zealand criticism.

Islanders from two northern atolls, Butaritari and Makaeke, have staged demonstrations — an unusual step in a placid Micronesian culture.

Tabai: go to hell with the Russian fishing rights!" declared a banner at one meeting called by village elders of Butaritari.

But Kiribati's Foreign Affairs Secretary and roving ambassador, Mr Atanarua Baiteke, claimed that the opposition was based on misunderstanding and said that most Kiribati islanders favoured the deal. They're afraid of a ghost. It is absurd to suggest that Kiribati could turn Communist because of a fishing agreement.

Mounted
soldiers
charge
students

From Patrick Laurence
in Johannesburg

Soldiers on horseback charged Cossack-like at black students in Soweto yesterday as they helped police round up between 400 and 500 young blacks who had commandeered six buses.

The youths hijacked the buses to take them to the Protea Magistrate's Court where 105 blacks were scheduled to appear on charges of attending an illegal gathering at the weekend. Earlier, a bus carrying American and German tourists was stoned. Many blacks resent tourists, who gaze at them and then return to their countries as experts on Soweto. Three bus windows were broken before police escorted the tourists out of Soweto.

At Protea Magistrate's Court, the arrival of the six hijacked buses triggered action by soldiers and police. As the youths got off the buses, they were scattered by police firing tear gas from armoured vehicles. They were then pursued by mounted soldiers. The soldiers, armed with rifles, and police with dogs captured between 400 and 500 youths.

Brigadier Jan Coetzee, divisional commissioner of police in Soweto, later confirmed that it was the first time that the

THE International Metalworkers' Federation in Geneva yesterday urged Mrs Thatcher to intervene in the dismissal of 950 black South Africans by the British-owned company, BTR Samcor. The British management of BTR has so far refused to get involved.

mounted unit had been used in our operations. In our operations, the South African Defence Force operate as one unit," he added.

The youths were released after being taken to Morija police station. Because the bus company, Putco, refused to press charges against them, Brigadier Coetzee said. Explaining the decision not to press charges, a spokesman for Putco said: "The buses were made available to them under duress from our Ikwezi depot. The buses were subsequently returned to the depot by our drivers."

Ironically, charges were withdrawn against the 105 blacks at Protea Magistrate's Court on instructions of the Transvaal attorney-general, Mr Don Brunette. He asked the police to investigate further and to re-submit the docket.

Brigadier Coetzee said of the general situation in Soweto: "I think it is rather tense as far as the youths are concerned. But the majority of the adults and responsible people would rather carry on with their daily routine."

Putco yesterday suspended all bus services into Soweto after it sent two buses in to test the situation after lunch and both were stoned.

A meeting of the Congress of South African Students at Regina Medina cathedral in Soweto was cancelled after the clash with security forces at Protea Magistrate's Court.

Police reported that three people were killed in unrest on Tuesday night in black townships. Two of the deaths were the result of police action against "unruly mobs" in Queenstown in the Cape and Accoville on the East Rand. The body of the third person, a woman, was found in Witbank in the Transvaal. The cause of her death is still being investigated.

Gandhi sparks emergency controversy

Ajoy Bose in New Delhi reports on how a 'casual remark' has united the Opposition

The blunt assertion by Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, on Sunday that he would not hesitate to impose a state of emergency if necessary has sparked off a national controversy.

Opposition leaders, many of whom were gaoled by Mr Gandhi's mother when she imposed an emergency exactly 10 years ago, have condemned the Prime Minister's statement as "a veiled threat to cow down the people and the Opposition."

Expressing his shock at Mr Gandhi's justification of emergency rule in the country, Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee, the president of the rightwing Bharatiya Janata Party, said: "It just shows that though the emergency leadership is no longer with us the emergency mentality is very much alive."

Despite their many ideological differences with the Bharatiya Janata Party, leaders of the two Communist parties have also echoed Mr Vajpayee's concern at Mr Gandhi's statement. Mr Jyoti Basu, the Marxist chief minister of West Bengal, commented: "If the Prime Minister feels the necessity to impose emergency, our duty will be to oppose it."

Opposition leaders have also pointed out that if Mr Gandhi wanted to impose emergency he would have first to amend the Constitution by a two-thirds majority in Parliament, as the Janata Party

after coming to power in 1977 introduced constitutional safeguards against such a measure. Even if Parliament sanctioned an emergency rule, there would be a powerful campaign against it and a move in the Supreme Court to declare it illegal.

Commentators in several newspapers here have also sharply criticised the Prime Minister for choosing to reopen the sensitive issue of emergency which his mother had been at great pains to close ever since her election defeat in 1977. They are equally upset about Mr Gandhi's blistering attack on the press on Sunday, particularly as he has received overwhelmingly favourable coverage in the media, since becoming Prime Minister.

Worried at the hostile reaction provoked by Mr Gandhi's remarks, the Government yesterday officially denied that it had any plans to impose emergency rule in the country. The Union Home Minister, Mr S. Chavan, was reported to have assured opposition parliamentarians that an emergency would not be imposed again and as the statement by the Prime Minister was "just a casual remark."

The emergency controversy has broken at a time when civil rights groups have been denouncing against the enactment of several new laws which have severely curtailed the fundamental rights of citizens.

This week, the People's Union of Civil Liberties issued a booklet listing "black laws" enacted recently which dramatically curb the basic liberties of the people. These include the National Security Act, the Terrorist Affected Areas (Special Courts) Ordinance and the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act.

The National Security Act closely resembles the dreaded Maintenance of Internal Security Act which was used to gaoil thousands of people including opposition leaders, social workers and journalists during the emergency. The act gives the police wide-ranging powers to detain people for lengthy periods without substantiating charges against them.

The Terrorist Affected Areas Ordinance, declared in Punjab shortly after the army operation in the Golden Temple, has even more disturbing implications. Under the ordinance, the burden of proof has been shifted to the accused if he or she is charged with criminal conspiracy or attempting to wage war against the state.

The latest in the series of "black laws" is the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act which was rushed through Parliament last month. A few weeks after the Sikh terrorist bombings in Delhi and other northern cities, the act is particularly ominous for journalists as it deems a criminal offence the publication of any

information likely to assist terrorists or prejudicial to the integrity of the country.

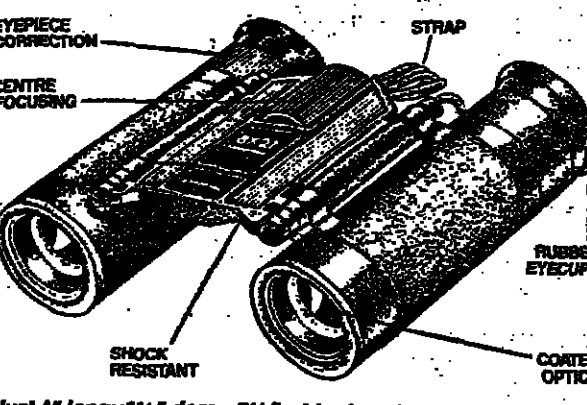
Civil rights activists point out that although the Government has managed to pass these laws without much opposition — because of terrorist activities by Sikh extremists — the draconian measures are likely to hurt the innocent citizen far more than the terrorists.

Civil rights groups are also concerned about the increasing tendency of state governors to promulgate and promulgate ordinances bypassing the state legislatures.

An extensive study of this practice in the eastern state of Bihar undertaken recently by Dr D. Wadhwa of the Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, revealed that on some days the governor signed as many as 50 ordinances, some of which were promulgated 35 times.

The ordinances passed with the help of the state and central governments have raised a storm in Parliament and the media recently. The Government has yet to take any action on the matter and Dr Wadhwa has gone to the Supreme Court, challenging the practice as an encroachment by the state on a citizen's rights.

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and the Coca Cola Kid
and

PROMS '85
July 18-Sept 12
NIKE
THE EVERYWHERE

**Jenifer Landor as
the younger Mary in
Mary After The Queen
Picture
by Douglas Jeffery**

Prima Donna is a case in point—his one-act opera running this week at the Royal College of Music—where the music is wonderfully rescued from inconsequentiality by concluding duet shared between a drunken barman and the maid-servant he mistakes for a distinguished diva. A silly situation but set down with great charm and sung here with affecting conviction by Martin Oxenham and Helen Edwards.

Benjamin had, with the result of some inspired stage business, a marvellously creative comic sense (tre Parisien, tres chic) and clutch of memorable cameos from Norma Ritchie, Beverly Stuchbery, and Shelia Littlewood as the nieces and from Ann Liebeck whose naughty nurse was a delight

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PROMS '85
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THE 10 BEST BRITISH FILLS
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BULL
The Green at the End

The fizz-kid of Oz

Derek Malcolm reviews the week's releases, including Dusan Makavejev's *The Coca Cola Kid*, and below, left, talks to the director

WHILE no one looking at *The Coca Cola Kid* (Screen on 15) could possibly think Dusan Makavejev has returned to the form of his best years, it seems perfectly reasonable to suggest that any completed Makavejev project is better than none.

His second come-back film (the first, after a regrettable absence of a decade or so, was *Montenegro*) proves him to be one of the few directors working today who still looks at the world from such an odd angle that what comes out seems both original and provoking. He couldn't do anything totally ordinary if he tried.

That said, it would be wise to add to once that his Australian venture, though it has some delicious parts, is messy and uneven as a whole. It is almost as if he couldn't do exactly as he wanted, and may have been a little too far from his true roots as a European filmmaker to flex his muscles fully. This is a comedy, but it constantly threatens to explode in true

Makavejev fashion but never quite does. Its central character is a bible-thumping American manager in Australia to shake up Coca Cola's image and profit margins. His track record proves he can treble sales, and head office wants him given free rein.

Noticing that a place called Anderson Valley is a blank on the charts, he goes in to check it out and finds a land baron, who manufactures his own soft drinks, is ranged against his beautiful secretary is his adversary's runaway daughter. And only by bedazzling him can she make him avoid a conflict that is likely to end in chaos and change his ways. Once again with Makavejev, sex is the cure for almost anything.

It is not, however, the plot that counts. It is the personalities involved and of Australia itself, fighting a muddled and probably losing

battle against the multi-national conglomerates. The film pushes for subversion through quirky individual effort.

The whizz-kid Eric Roberts, whose performance is as off-beat and bravura as the film itself is in the end defeated. Eccentricity has its just deserts in the very sharply shaped of Greta Scacchi as his secretary and the more rough-hewn individuality of Bill Kerr as her father, both of whom are excellent. Scacchi, in fact, reveals more of herself, both physically and metaphorically as an actress than before. There may be a connection.

But then Makavejev as a director is likely to do this for his actors by forcing them to take risks. In addition, he takes a great deal from Rebecca Smart as the child who is the only true friend of the Coca Cola Kid, and even from an uncredited coala bear with a broken arm.

The whole is less satisfactory than these particular parts, as if something that

needed to be said was not allowed. But as latterday comedies go this more than passes muster, since you never know what is going to happen next. That's a pleasant enough change these days to be supported.

Marta Meszaros, the outstanding woman director in Eastern Europe, may have made a better film than *Diary For My Children* (Comden Plaza, £14) but none more relevant or audacious. Autobiographical in tone, it is a retelling of the story of her own youth after the war which has direct reference to Hungary now.

This, of course, is because how we grow up shapes us, and the great strength of the film is that it forces us to consider history in subtly personal terms. It is audacious because it goes as far as any other Eastern European film I have seen both in condemning the Stalinist

years and in drawing parallels about the present.

Meszaros always was an awkward customer — much criticised at times in Hungary itself. But no one can deny the efficacy of her moral hatchet job this time.

Julia (Zsuzsa Czinkóczi) is an orphan who arrives in Budapest from Russia in 1947 to live with her grandfather's younger sister, a member of the Party elite. Her aunt wishes to adopt her, but she resists. Everything the woman does is suspect, since she is essentially clambering over the dead or maimed bodies of people like the girl's father, a sculptor arrested during the post-war show trials.

Falling for an engineer who reminds her of him, she finds that he too disappears in the purges, while her aunt, after a violent quarrel with her

grandfather, accepts a new post as prison governor.

But the film is not so much a political statement as the story of a girl growing to maturity at a certain time and place, striking out for her own independence.

All Meszaros' films are better at whispering than shouting, pushing for a general understanding through particular moments of truth. That is why *Diary For My Children* is so watchable a film as well as an important one.

The magnificent new complete colour print of Powell and Pressburger's 1943 *The Life And Death Of Colonel Blimp* arrives at the Screen at the Electric tomorrow, trailing its history of controversy and its reputation as one of the best films ever made in this country.

But it is impossible to look at this 165-minute epic now without admiring the way Powell's romantic imagination and power of expression makes what would otherwise look fairly innocuous so pro-

vocatively modern. Like Makavejev — a filmmaker with whom he otherwise has no possible connection — Powell takes risks, and has both the artifice and craftsmanship to bring them off triumphantly.

Essentially, his version of the life of Low's famous cartoon figure (Roger Livesey) is a love story between the filmmaker and his leading character who, though absurd, still embodies everything Powell held valuable about the English character. And it is also a love story between that character and Deborah Kerr's three women — the impossible objects of desire in his life.

Perhaps only Max Ophüls could have traversed this episodic treatise on English values with a greater sense of unity and style. But then he might have missed its almost wilful eccentricity and unruly, soporific splendour. There are longeurs, but this is still a great film, and looking greater by the decade.

BRIEFING

Best films

Old Enough (Academy): Nice feature debut, about girls from different sides of the tracks growing up in New York, from Marianna Silver.

Suburbia (ICA Cinema): Penelope Spheeris's lively parable about rejected youth and gross suburban values. A definite new talent.

Our Story (Lumiere, Chelsea Cinema): Bertrand Blier as Bunuel, with Alain Delon as drunk pursuing Nathalie. Eccentric but fun.

Witness (Plaza etc): Still the best commercial film around. Peter Weir's American debut, with Harrison Ford among the Ashk, solving murder mystery.

Best on TV

Remembrance (tonight, C4 9.30): Colin Gregg's festival prize-winner about ratings on leave before Nato exercise, ruffling up rough.

Brothers in Law (Saturday, C4 8.20): One of the Boulton brothers' best satires, a 1957 send-up of the 1931 profession.

Pravda (Monday, C4, 10.45): More Gollard, from 1969 and shot in Czechoslovakia, paying homage to Degas Verov and attacking capitalism and Eastern imperialism.

Androcles And The Lion (Wednesday, C4, 2.30): 1932 version of Shaw's talky play.

Special interest

RAYMOND Williams gives a Guardian Lecture on Sunday in support of the season of Socialist cinema at the National Film Theatre. Brecht's *Kuhle Wampe* is shown before the lecture, and on Tuesday there's the Chinese classic, *Two Stage Sisters*, from 1984.

The Jonathan Miller season continues tonight with Roger Moore's *Pleasure*. At Her Majesty's, in which the good doctor appeared, and on Sunday there's his version of *The Beggar's Opera* for the Biff.

The Barbican Cinema shows Edgar Reitz's *Heimat* over the forthcoming week. Its four parts repeated twice each between tomorrow and next Thursday.

Outside London, the Cambridge Film Festival continues with the Argentine film much praised at Cannes, *The Official Version* tonight and tomorrow night, and other upcoming special attractions include Perry Adlon's *Supersub* (tonight and Saturday), with the director in attendance. Lino Brocka's *Bayan K0* on Sunday, which is followed by Reitz's *Heimat*. One of his few films never shown commercially in this country; and tomorrow morning the highly audacious *The Innocents*, one of the finest films about gypsies ever made.

D.M.

Sweetness turned sour



Dusan Makavejev — still taking risks

NO DIRECTOR from Yugoslavia has become so well-known internationally as Dusan Makavejev. Yet he has only made two films in the last decade — *Montenegro* in Sweden and now *The Coca Cola Kid* in Australia.

Anyone who remembers the future that surrounded *WR: Mysteries Of The Organs*, his Reichian sexual commentary of 1971, is entitled to be mystified about Makavejev's subsequent lack of working opportunities.

The film was the art-house sensation of the year, and Makavejev one of the hottest directors around. At the Academy in Oxford Street, the then owner, George Hoellering, fought long and finally successful battle with the Film Censor just to be able to show the credit sequence complete. The rest was dubbed by some, possibly by mistake. *WR: Mysteries Of The Organs* — *Crowds* flocked to see it everywhere.

What happened to Makavejev after that is still a puzzle, most of all to Makavejev himself. But his nemesis was called *Sweet Movie*, which he started in Belgrade in 1973 and completed in Canada, Holland and Paris after a series of quarrels with the puritanical Yugoslav authorities.

The darling of the cinema buffs of the West, who had not troubled to shore up his position at home because of his success abroad, was suddenly found wanting when *Sweet Movie* bit the box-office dust.

It did so partly because it was the most confused, anarchic and difficult film he had ever made, with ludicrous interventions by the silly and rather nasty Otto Muehl, and also because it came out at precisely the point in time when suspicion of such wholesale experiment began to surface after the barrier-breaking splurge of the late sixties and early seventies.

Makavejev couldn't go back to Yugoslavia where he had burnt his boats by cocking a snook at practically everybody, and the producers and men deserted him elsewhere. It was a prime case of a director done down not by bad reviews but by excessive praise. He might have made *Sweet Movie* differently had not the chorus of approbation of *WR: The Switchboard Operator* and *Innocence* Unprotected been so seductive.

Nevertheless, those three films were totally original and the waste of talent thereafter still seems appalling. Unable to make another film, in spite of all sorts of plans and stratagems, Makavejev went to teach at Toronto's McGill University and later at New York, Harvard and Columbia.

Montenegro, made in 1981 for the Swedish producer Bo Jonsson, was his big chance for a come-back, and happily for the international critics, and international audiences too, remembered him. It was not a huge success but not a failure either. Another film suddenly became possible, and Austria and the Coca Cola Kid beckoned.

It was in 1975 at the Sydney Film Festival, where David Stratton, then director of the event, had bravely put on *Sweet Movie*, that he also gave Makavejev two books by the Australian writer Frank Moorhouse. Makavejev loved them, and wrote to Moorhouse suggesting a meeting. The first draft of what was to become *The Coca Cola Kid* was produced in 1976, but it was six years later before the Australian producer David Roe picked up the option.

Makavejev is now an authority on the entire history of the Coca Cola company, and on how to deal with the corporate lawyers in America anxious to receive the maximum publicity for their product and to protect its reputation at the same time. He had trouble. Of that there is no doubt, because the Coca Cola advertisements, based on famous examples but, shall we say, slight parodies of the original, are no longer in the film.

Makavejev thinks now that David Roe probably made a mistake working in such close collusion with the Coca Cola lawyers, consulting them most steps of the way. He hopes that they might have got away with more consulting fees. But it's not a moot point and he doesn't labour it.

What he is a little more concerned about is certain things Greta Scacchi has said about making the movie, like, for instance, that she would not be working with him again in a hurry, even though he was "a sweet, charming man."

To James Cameron-Wilson, of Film Review, she added: "Once I became ecstatic over a bit of improvisation I did. In order to listen to Eric (Roberts), I had to lift one speaker of my Walkman from my car. Dusan invited me out to dinner that night. You were wonderful today, he told me. So clever, so tantalising — the way you allowed Eric to see into your office!"

For the suspicion that Greta was tricked into nude shower scene, every last frame of which was used, Makavejev says that she is still a little inexperienced as a film star and wonders why she should be made to appear in the nude without the result being in the film.

However, he thinks she is terrific all the same, and if he tried her on to being that, it was a job well done. Think her fundamental trouble may be that she is so very sexy and attractive and doesn't yet know how to deal with that. Because she is a fine actress, and doesn't just want to be a sex symbol. I didn't want her as just that either, and because of her talent, we made her part bigger and deeper than it originally was.

He says the film was a bit of a risky enterprise, being an affectionate rather than hostile parody on the business methods, but likely to be misinterpreted by those without the required imagination. "But then, this is not a good period for cinema imagination and risk-taking is greatly frowned upon. And audiences seem to be satisfied with very, very little. I always try to give them more than that, and with *Sweet Movie* I paid for it."

"That's why I admire David Lean so much. I went to see *A Passage to India* — and it took my breath away — may not be accurate to E.M. Forster or to India. I don't know about that. But what visions, what consummate craftsmanship! But then, he is a genius, and perhaps audiences don't want that."

"What they appear to want is *Dynasty*, *Dynasty*, *Dynasty*. Do you know that when it comes on in Belgrade, the whole city stops? For an hour there are never any international calls. It's useless trying. Nobody wants to talk to you. So much for the cinema."



Nigel Algar on the release of Powell and Pressburger's *The Life And Death Of Colonel Blimp*

Buffer zone

MICHAEL POWELL and Emeric Pressburger's ironic, epic, romantic tapestry of a mistake working in such close collusion with the Coca Cola lawyers, consulting them most steps of the way. He hopes that they might have got away with more consulting fees. But it's not a moot point and he doesn't labour it.

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works and a film considered one of the best British films ever made. *The Life And Death Of Colonel Blimp* has been restored and can now be publicly shown in its complete form for the first time since its original release in 1943. Its reappearance is timely — 1985 is the 50th anniversary of the National Film Archive and the Rank Organisation and sees the twentieth birthday of Michael Powell.

Thanks in part to the commitment of the Archive to the restoration of Powell and Pressburger's work (A Canterbury Tale was completed in 1977, *Black Narcissus* is in the works and *Gone to Earth* is a possible future project, depending on funds), to the availability of new distribution copies and to the championing exhibition work of the Electric Cinema in the seventies, Powell and Pressburger's achievements are now widely recognised, both within Britain and abroad.

Until this year, however, such celebrations have lacked one of their most significant

abstract the film, firing off such memoranda to Brendan Bracken, Minister of Information, as this: "I propose to me the measures necessary to stop this foolish production before it gets any further. I am not prepared to allow propaganda detrimental to the morale of the Army, and I am sure the Cabinet will take all necessary action. Who are the people behind it?"

The film was written as an original screenplay by Emeric Pressburger sometime in early 1942. At this stage it was called *The Life And Death Of Sugar Candy* and the intention was to cast Laurence Olivier as Candy.

The title was not changed until after shooting had begun, as a result of contacts with David Low, creator of the *Blimp* cartoon character in the *London Evening Standard* and to the championing exhibition work of the Electric Cinema in the seventies, Powell and Pressburger's achievements are now widely recognised, both within Britain and abroad.

Until this year, however, such celebrations have lacked one of their most significant

Pressburger had deviated from the semi-official consensus on the acceptable forms of wartime propaganda.

To Churchill, the film seemed defeatist and likely to give a new lease of life to the *Blimp* conception of an Army officer at a time when it was already fading. The film's message that "calculated respect for tradition and hierarchy (the values for which Britain was ostensibly fighting) was in fact standing in the way of our winning the war did not find favour with High Command or Government."

The audacity of the film having Deborah Kerr play all three leading female roles, making her the single object of Clive Candy's love and desire throughout his entire life, is surprisingly neglected by critics, all the more since Deborah Kerr's performance launched her as a screen actress of haunting power.

Anton Walbrook cast as Clive Candy's lifelong German friend, also delivers an immaculate performance. The film was outrageously original and a passionate rejection of the wartime stress on realism and obedience. Today it testifies to the wit, intelligence and sheer heart that grace British cinema at its best.

Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger will deliver a Guardian Lecture at the NFI on Sunday, July 28. *The Life And Death Of Colonel Blimp* opens at the Screen at the Electric tomorrow after a *Guardian* screening today. In the autumn the film will play at BFI regional cinemas.

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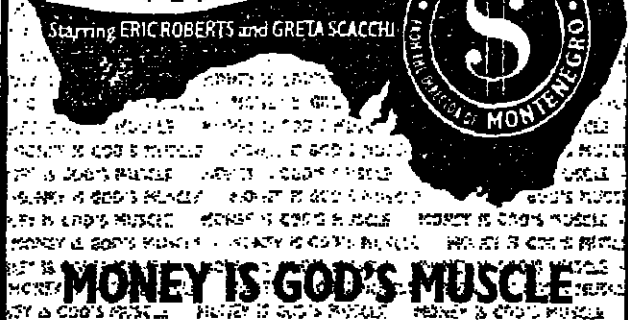
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TAKING SHAPE in an industrial workshop in a quiet corner of Dorset is an aspect of future structures that, in many ways, is as revolutionary as any generated by the great Buckminster Fuller. Its importance is not yet perceived by those who in this country should invest (but generally fail to invest) in innovations of enormous potential and, since it might be seen as a curious cross between fairground balloons and a student UFO, it is an inflatable, ribbed, contra-rotating flying saucer whose transparent elegance somehow lifts it — at least on close encounters — of the first kind — far above the hazy Sunday afternoon atmosphere that a mention of UFOs inevitably creates. For this is no balmy Sunday afternoon machine.

It embodies indeed an expression of a major advance in inflatable structure techniques, an advance in seaming and tailoring which frees the designer entirely from the elementary geometric limitations that have hampered and limited inflatable structures since the first balloons took to the air. The new seaming techniques, giving freedom in two and three dimensions, mean that structures with complex double curvatures, double skins, and superimposed ribs can now be made in any size up to the limitations of materials. The past few years have seen enormous advances in synthetic materials, most of which are susceptible to the heat seaming techniques and since seam strength — like material strength — can now be very high, an entirely new era of inflatable structures is about to dawn upon an unready world.

Behind — or rather more often beside — the contra-rotating flying saucer and its underlying new technology is a highly inventive ex-Kenyan farmer, Keith Stewart, who patents things as fast as he can go and whose inflatable kite bird scarers are described by the Ministry of Agriculture as the best on the market. Keith Stewart, however, is clearly not a man to live by bird-scarers alone, even if (as seems possible) they take the US Midwest by storm. To some folk — and the world's most inventive people — he is regarded as slightly potty and certainly obsessed.

Obsession, of course, is a component of inventiveness; another, unfortunately, is frustration. For the world is seldom receptive to new ideas or generous to those who generate them. Yet there are critical moments in technological history when clusters of thousands of developments come together to create a possible something which, hitherto, had been entirely impractical or impossible.

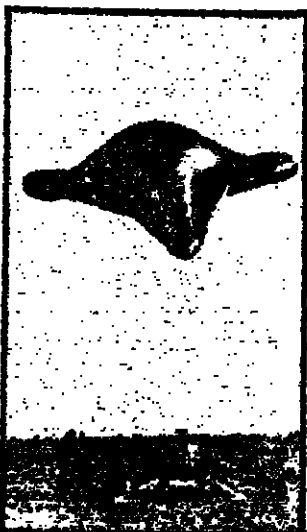
For example, the concurrence of developments in aerodynamics, high temperature materials and computing speed, suddenly made large-scale long range rocketry —



Left: Experimental inflatable remotely-controlled flying machine, investigated by the Royal Navy. Power packs were attached to the forward load bearing frame which also supported the payload.

Below right: Prototype inflatable ribbed contra-rotating flying saucer taking shape at Stevie Aerodynamics in Dorset. The internal ribbing and double-curvature are made possible by a new structural technique.

Below left: Dolphin-shaped helium filled kite about to take off with a payload of photographic equipment. This system is now being developed for routine aerial photography and for disease detection in crop surveillance.



To change the shape of the world

Inflatable technology now offers architects, sportsmen, politicians and, inevitably, armies, some intriguing options, says Anthony Tucker

It is very obvious that flying gadgets, with a radar signature something like a seagull, could carry out surveillance and other dirty work from positions and at actual speeds that would baffle all conventional detection techniques.

At the simplest level the helium-filled and strangely dolphin-shaped kite structures, already shown to be capable of carrying a substantial load of instruments — such as infrared camera systems and (eventually) computer-based stabilising controls — offer a low cost route into all kinds of aerial photography and surveillance. In particular it is possible to use these controllable kite platforms for disease surveillance in crops over large areas at costs that are only a small fraction of those of conventional flying machines of any kind.

The free-flying devices, such as the helium-filled powered inflatable wing aircraft, investigated by the

MoD, there is an obvious conflict between the low speeds and low power of the remotely controlled aircraft and the need for stability in high wind speeds and gusty conditions. Lighter-than-air machines are bound simply to blow about, like balloons from a summer fête or so you might think. But this depends on the hardness of the system and its control. While inflatable aircraft with conventional aerodynamics might be have rather like Dumbo, the contra-rotating flying saucer offers a far more stable platform.

As currently envisaged, with its disc wing aerodynamics marrying the properties of the conventional aircraft and the helicopter, the contra-rotating flying saucer puts both its power and its control surfaces at the periphery of the disc — thus eliminating the infamous "Jesus nut" stress point of conventional helicopters. The outcome could well be high lift, low-power, low-stress,

low-cost, highly stable and hard flying machines with a horizontal speed ranging controllably from zero to 100 knots.

The crucial fact is that the heavy opaque materials suitable for major building structures now have a working life in excess of 50 years while the transparent materials have an ultra-violet stability in excess of five years. From the rate of recent advances this could well be 10 years within the immediate future. Ultra-violet stability of five years probably means a working life of 10 years and, since such structures are very cheap when compared with conventional building, the economics of inflatable buildings (and other structures) are becoming very attractive. It may well be economic to replace a structure every decade, modifying it to new needs, then to maintain a conventional building.

Freedom of design means, for example, that such seemingly absurd ideas as inflatable

Flettner rotors for ship propulsion, or inflatable arch-shaped wing-sails (both currently taking the eye of the Department of Trade and Industry and drawing some attention overseas) are now a practical possibility.

Yet the greatest impact of the new technological possibilities may well be in the realm of large, even enormous, inflatable buildings — or rather structures — which could transform horticulture and, as of now if pursued, in the provision of weather protection with an open-air climate for the booming leisure industries. The great problem, at the present time, with large inflatable buildings is that they depend on a pressure difference between the interior and the outer atmosphere and therefore must have more or less sealed entrances.

But a shift to buildings whose pressurised double-skin provides structural strength, allows complete freedom of openings.

Take as an example the proposals put forward in the past couple of weeks for the protection of the Centre Court at Wimbledon. Like earlier proposals for protecting football stadia with giant tents, the Wimbledon proposals have a quaintly Victorian quality, for they envisage some kind of extremely expensive sliding glass roof which might reasonably have graced the Great Exhibition of 1851. The notional cost is given as around £13 million. Maintenance costs would be enormous. What is perhaps worse, from the spectators' point of view, is that this vast expenditure would leave intact the mass of pillars and roof edges that — for most of those lucky enough to get to the Centre Court — render the occasions rather like watching tennis from beneath the table.

Why not think forward instead of backward? A double skinned inflatable cover — whether conceived as a modified dome or as an

elevated curved platform which could be tilted into the weather — could provide complete cover for both the Centre Court and No 1 Court next door. Other elevated platforms could cover large sections of the outside courts. For £13 million you might even be able to cover the lot in the world's first grand experiment in the new structural techniques.

To some the use of a new technology for the pursuit of leisure and sport in comfort might seem a typically selfish application characteristic of the materialistic developed world. But the technologies now being investigated happen to be timely for proof in many areas. The other aspects, such as readily extendable industrial buildings, mobile hospitals, vast temporary or even permanent shelters in regions of disaster or stress, and a host of uses not yet perceptible, will follow a demonstration.

What is certain is that a new era of inflatable structures, on the ground and in the air, is about to open up. The most depressing aspect is the dumb failure of those in control of investment capital to realise what is happening and how important it is for Britain to move firmly into this new technology which, in the hands of creative designers, can make cobwebs and gossamer seem heavyweight.

REFERENCES:
Architectural Fabric Structures: US Building Research Board; US National Academy of Sciences, 1985 (National Academy Press).

Use of Inflated Sails for Ship Propulsion: Keith Stewart; Contribution to the symposium Windtech 85, Southampton 1985 (in press).

There are currently no published papers on experimental inflatable aircraft and flying saucers utilising the new structural techniques, partly because of the security aspects of the recent experiments. Some information may, however, be available from Stevie Aerodynamics, Manor Farm, Melbury Osmond, Dorset.



Sparrows: preferring a safe bet

Birds' flutter

There are moments when even a sparrow has to decide to push its luck. Chris Barnard on nature's gamblers

live the long, cold night when foraging is impossible. To give some indication of the urgency involved, blue tits have to find a food item roughly every three seconds just to survive an average winter day. Now imagine our bird approaching the end of the day with time to visit just one more feeding area before it gets dark and two potential areas to choose between. It is an investor's dilemma. The bird must weigh up the benefits of his investment by wisdom of the cost of his capital input and the benefit of his expected rate of return. He must choose where to forage and what to eat by weighing the time and energy costs of searching for and catching prey against the nutritional value of the food. The option is a good one, if not it pays the predator to look elsewhere.

The weighing up, of course, is done by natural selection acting over generations of predators weeding out those individuals which make inefficient decisions. In a simple world, return can be maximised by choosing those food supplies which yield the highest average reward rate of the range available. In other words the predator should always go where food is most abundant or items most profitable. Under certain circumstances, however, this simple choice breaks down.

Consider a small bird, like a sparrow or blue tit, during winter. The main problem facing such birds is finding sufficient food not just to get through the day, but to sur-

small, warm-blooded species) are remarkably astute gamblers and behave largely as risk-sensitive foraging theory predicts.

Working with new world sparrows and juncos (small finches), Caraco showed that, given a choice of safe bet and risky feeding stations, providing seeds on the same basis as above, birds which had met their food requirement during a previous training period almost always went for the safe bet. Although they could have obtained a bonanza at the risky station, it clearly wasn't worth the risk of getting nothing. Birds which had failed to meet their requirement, however, tended to choose the risky station. Given their depleted resources, the chance of a bonanza outweighed the risk of drawing a blank.

While common shrews do not face the same overnight survival problem as small birds (they forage round the clock), their extraordinarily high metabolic rate means they can stand only a small shortfall in their food supply. Two or three hours without food means almost certain death. Any significant interruption to their foraging behaviour, for instance through hiding from predators or having to rest, is therefore a potential threat to survival. When we tested shrews in a way similar to Caraco's birds, they showed the same tendency to conservatism if they were meeting their food (in this case, meal-

chancing their arm if they were not. All this may sound as if sparrows, juncos and shrews are sophisticated probability theorists. Clever as their decisions seem, however, they can be achieved using extremely simple rules of thumb which what we know about the complexity of bird and shrew brains. There are some tell-tale signs in the work with shrews.

There are factors other than how well a predator is currently doing which are likely to make gambling a viable option. One of these is competition. Few predators have exclusive access to their food supply and most lose out in one way or another to competitors of their own or other species. One of the major effects of competition, apart from simply depleting food, is to reduce the predictability of food supplies in the future. A predator's immediate past experience of a food supply tells it very little about the state of the supply in the future if it is a control who has access to it (this may be one reason why many predators defend territories). Under conditions of competition, where all food supplies are potentially destabilised, it may pay to go for the place which can provide the biggest immediate reward. In our two-choice experiments this would clearly mean the risky station.

To test this, we allowed shrews to perform exactly the same task as before, but in some tests they were presented with apparent competitors; that is other shrews which they could see, touch and smell but which didn't have access to the experimental feeding stations. The use of apparent competitors rather than actual competitors rules out the problem of subjects responding simply to increased food depletion.

The results were convincing. Without competitors, shrews behaved exactly as before, visiting the safe or risky stations on the basis of their current requirement. When competitors were present, however, they were more likely to choose the risky station, regardless of how well they were doing. There was, of course, no need to respond in this way because the food supply was completely unaltered by the presence of competitors. This is good evidence that shrews were using a simple rule: if a competitor is present, do A, if not, do B. To approximate the right decision in a complicated situation.

Dr Chris Barnard is with the Animal Behaviour Research Group at the University of Nottingham's Zoology Department.

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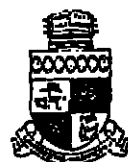
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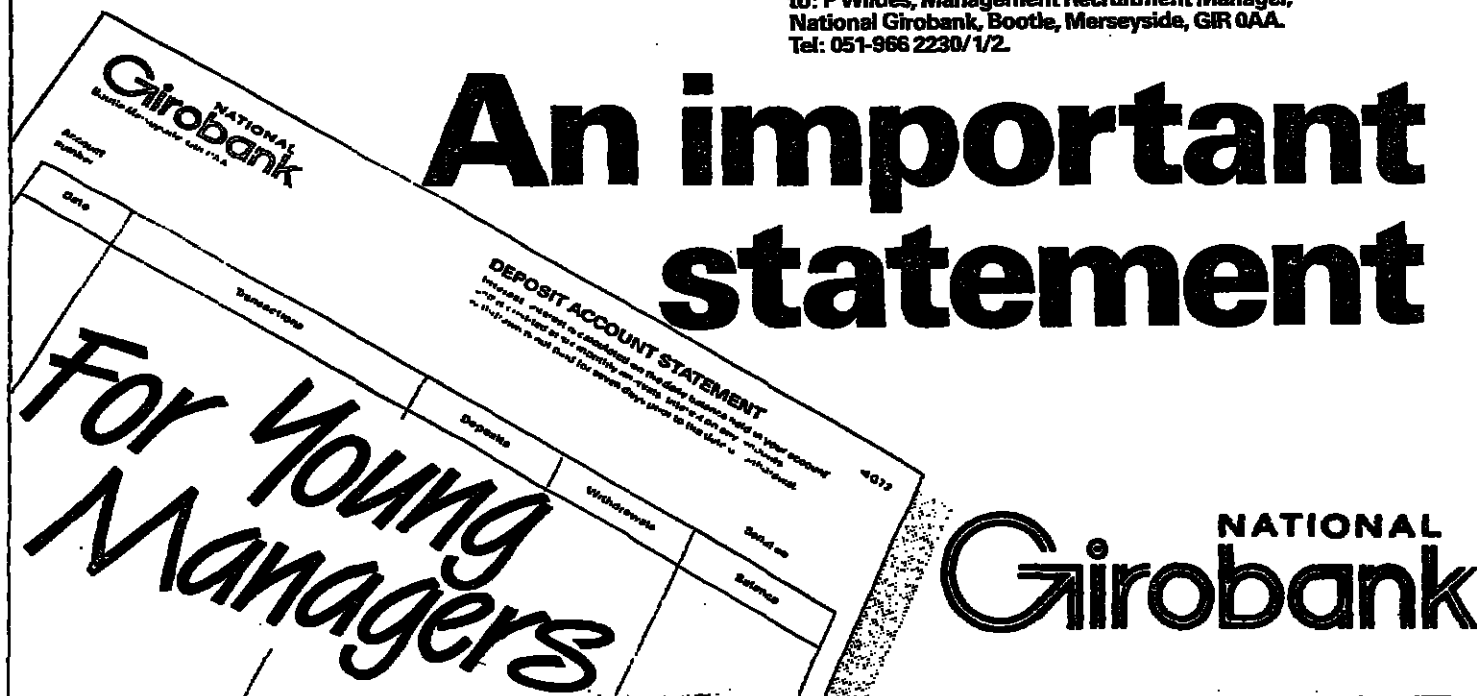
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An important statement



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OVERSEAS ODA DEVELOPMENT
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A message from the prince of darkness

COMMENTARY

Hugo Young



people how bad the problem is.

Presiding over this budget is Mr. Timothy Raison. Beside Mr. Geldof he cuts an especially pathetic figure. He is a good man, as Tories go. He would like the aid budget to be bigger. He speaks the language and understands the problems of development, and he has been to Ethiopia as often as any pop star. But he has no messianic presence, and no support in Government. He knows better than anyone how utterly at odds his budget is with the spirit of Wembley. Yet, under the curse of the politician, he must shuffle from airport to television studio defending it.

One place he would hardly have dared do so was Wembley on Saturday afternoon. A truthful account of what has happened was the only thing that might have caused a riot at that signally joyous and peaceful occasion. Since 1978, the British aid budget has been cut. In real terms, by 18 per cent. I'll say that again. Eighteen per cent. In

1984 it was allotted 0.33 per cent of the gross national product, the lowest ever. In the current year the budget, which was being fixed just as the famine was first reaching the television screen, is 3 per cent less than it was last year.

With even less, every emergency pound the government has given Ethiopia and the Sudan has been taken not from the defence budget or the motorway budget or the budget which buys pictures or refurbishes country houses or puts the finishing touches to the other essential artefacts of the British way of life. Nor did it cost the taxpayer an extra penny piece. Except for the cost of RAF planes distributing supplies, we paid Ethiopia by starving Tanzania or depriving Bangladesh.

aid is also tied by ideology. The colonialism of ideas, and especially of free-market economics, has replaced the colonialism of possession.

Further, there is the debt crisis. A small thunder-crack echoed through Whitehall this week, when Mr. Peter Walker ventured to suggest that it might be better for all sides if the governments of the industrialised world found ways of writing off Third World debt. The sense of this proposal is equalled only by the certainty of it being rejected as eccentric. The Sudan will need at least \$100 million of emergency aid this year. The Sudan has \$237 million of debt repayments to make this year. Behind all the murrainings of

horror from western ministers, that irreconcilable absurdity, which is within their power to cancel out, stands.

One should not, of course, underestimate the complexity of the aid equation, or the pitfalls in wait for those who try to crack it. It is rather easier to put on a global concert and make £80 million than to ensure that it bypasses corrupt governments, overcomes horrendous transport problems and reaches those who need it—although the evidence is that Band Aid, working with established agencies, has followed through to good effect.

The government is even host to a certain politician's overkill. Mrs. Thatcher may feel it expedient, with quite brazen hypocrisy, to trumpet Britain's record in being "first" into Ethiopia and the Sudan. But in her guts she sees aid supplicants as scroungers. At the Commonwealth Conference in 1982, Britain resisted all efforts to produce a serious collective commitment to any transfer of resources from north to south. Tanzania was advised to prove its worth by first adopting monetarist principles of economic management.

The anti-aid lobby, indeed, is gaining ground in establishment intellectual fashion. The government is even attacked for giving too much. Lengthy discussions find

easy newspaper space, contending that all aid is corrupt and futile. Far Left meets Far Right in a familiar, venomous compact of misbegotten ideas. Most politicians, however, are not as bold as that. They pretend, at least, to care. They are expert producers of the clichés of compassion. But they make the people their excuse. They resemble the employer who says he would be overjoyed to take on more blacks, if only the whites would let him. More aid might well be desirable, says the better class of minister, but the democratic will of the people does not favour it.

This is the alibi on which Geldof casts doubt, the bluff which he has called. Live Aid was a political event. It had political repercussions, changing the agenda long set and most sedulously protected by professional politicians. It showed that their excuses were empty. Mountains could be moved, satellites could be mobilised, millions could be electrifyingly spaced out—provided that the will to achieve all these things could be assembled.

Government will die in the last ditch pretending this cannot be done. Celery exposed the hideous truth: that they do not want to do it.

RICHARD NORTON-TAYLOR on Civil Service inefficiencies

Crude cuts that raise costs

THE Government is running into trouble over the cost of its policies, and the appalling working conditions in many unemployment benefit and social security offices is not one that would give pride to the best employers in the private sector. The Government says the Civil Service should follow.

Senior executives in the private sector say they do not envy the political interference which prevents senior civil servants from managing effectively. Private management consultants brought into Whitehall by Ministers have embarrassed the Government by saying that political criteria, a crude cuts policy, and the Treasury's insistence on fixed annual budgets which prevent effective long-term planning, are obstacles to efficiency.

Perhaps the prize for mismanagement, criticised as "extraordinarily inept" by senior Cabinet Office officials, goes to the way the Government banned unions from GCHQ. The initiative is described by Lord Bancroft, former head of the Home Civil Service, as "a further example of the bloody fool branch of management science."

Last month, Mr. John Banham, the government-appointed controller of the Audit Commission, sharply criticised the Government's attitude towards privatising services, another convenient way to cut the number of public servants. "Sheffield," he said, "collects refuse rather more economically than Southend (privatised), a fact which went down like a lead balloon in Marsham Street (headquarters of the Department of the Environment)." He added: "privatisation is the last resort of a management that has given up."

There are other, perhaps more significant, inconsistencies. Mrs. Thatcher has indicated that she does not want to introduce any constitutional changes, that she is not interested in the machinery of government. Indeed, she has irritated some of her advisers as well as past advisers by not setting up a Prime Minister's department, a move that, they argue, would lead to greater efficiency and would fill what the former Secretary of State, Lord Hunt, has described as the hole at the heart of Government.

She clings to traditional constitutional conventions, such as that of ministerial responsibility—the notion that ministers are responsible for all the activities of their civil servants. Yet she has told her ministers to delegate much more authority to civil servants, especially on financial and budgetary matters—something which would be difficult to reconcile with that constitutional convention.

Behind these inconsistencies between government rhetoric and action, the Government seems to be clear about one policy which, though neither ministers nor Sir Robert Armstrong, head of the Home Civil Service, nor Whitehall permanent secretaries (Mrs. Thatcher's appointees) admit it, does have constitutional as well as practical consequences.

In future, senior civil servants, Miss Anne Mueller, permanent secretary at the Cabinet Office, said in a rare public speech last month, "will be more concerned with performance in terms of output and less with administering procedures and purely cerebral analysis." In other words, they will be "doers," not questioners, judged on how much they successfully promote, rather than on the merits of their objective advice.



While America broods, Japan imitates: workers on a Los Angeles-style roadway (above) and an assembly line at a camera factory (below).

W. J. WEATHERBY reports from New York on the seams between Japan and the US

Enigma of the one-way round trip

TWO RECENT public occasions in New York were perfect examples of the complexity of current Japanese-American relations. Ranging from hostility to limited to an equally unimpaired display of international togetherness, the two public events were like Jack-and-Hyde aspects of a relationship that promises big problems in the near future unless it is made more realistic.

The first occasion was a hostile rally in which Japan was often mentioned as if it were still the "yellow peril" of World War Two. The rally demanding greater protection against foreign imports was held in the Garment District off Seventh Avenue, where in the overcrowded streets between 34th and 42nd work some of the natural competitors of Asian sweatshops. Fiery, militant speeches used "Keep the jobs at home" as a slogan and seemed to justify the recent war from a Japanese government advisory committee on trade that "sentiment in the United States is like that before the outbreak of war."

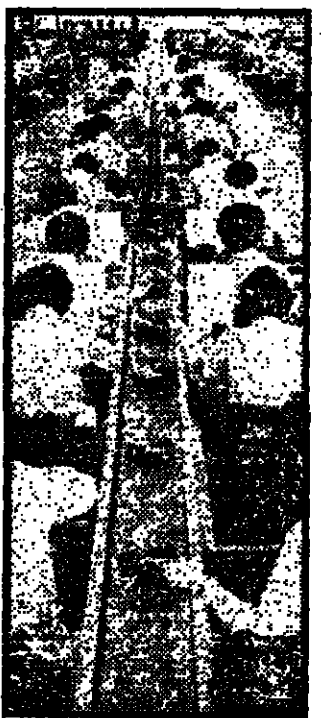
A trade war of course not a shooting war, but the Third Reich showed how quickly one can lead to the other. The militancy is not restricted to depressed New York job centres, but is to be heard in states as different as Illinois and Alabama as I recently discovered. The Japanese with a lion's share of the US market have succeeded in arousing even more Americans not directly affected and have put their official image back at least 20 years. The "yellow peril" of the war years was transformed during the MacArthur occupation into "Chief Asian" and there seems to be a widespread feeling that Japan has taken advantage of this change of role in a way more suited to an enemy than an ally.

Recent revelations of Japanese undercutting tricks in the American market, and white Europeans still being in the vast majority have had a much less testing time than the Japanese. You can sense this lack of security when Japanese-Americans show a somewhat superior attitude towards American culture compared with the one they came from.

Japan accounted for \$37 billion of the United States' record trade deficit of \$123 billion last year, Senator John C. Danforth, chairman of the US Senate Commerce Committee, said he is in favour of a "til for tat" policy restricting foreign imports from a country where American goods have restricted access. He said the Japanese, rather than taking any real action on trade, keep discussions going for ever. The Japanese government's new programme to ease import procedures in Japan will not be put into effect until late this month, but the American business reaction already seems to be sceptical because many similar pledges made two years ago have not been carried out. The Japanese policy seems to be partly to reinvest the money made in the US in American factories and land and to benefit from the US high interest rates.

Yet the ruthless image of Japan as depicted at that Garment District rally is likely not the whole story as a public gathering a few days later showed. Only a few blocks away, a long Japanese-American procession of witness celebrated the 25th anniversary of the official friendship of the twin cities of New York and Tokyo. Although the procession included displays of Japanese dancing in national costume, martial arts and ancient rituals the main point of the procession was undoubtedly a mass march of "Japanese-Americans and friends" in which the emphasis was on the American character of the Japanese immigrants.

If they had been present at the Garment District rally, would they have had to be the fiercest of all in denouncing Japanese imports to prove where their loyalty lay? It is a predicament all Japanese have had to face at some time when their commitments as Americans are in conflict with their respect for their origins, but white Europeans still being in the vast majority have had a much less testing time than the Japanese. You can sense this lack of security when Japanese-Americans show a somewhat superior attitude towards American culture compared with the one they came from.



Just as the Garment District speakers recalled the "yellow peril" of the World War years, so Japanese-Americans have gone back to the same period to seek a clarification of their identity as Americans. They have requested a revisionist view of the way they were interned in the war as a possible threat to national security, claiming it was a rejection of their constitutional rights as Americans. In a court case now pending in Seattle, Washington, a Japanese-American is seeking the reversal of his conviction in 1943 on charges of violating military curfew and refusing to report to a relocation camp. The evidence has so far shown that the Government, fearful of sabotage and espionage, saw these Japanese-Americans as Japanese not as Americans.

The ambivalence that is always present in US foreign relations because this vast melting pot of a nation has citizens from every country it deals with is intensified in the case of Japan, which has always had an important role in modern American affairs as enemy, competitor or ally. Given the racism of both countries, their very different official customs and cultures, the role of enemy or competitor is much easier than that of ally, and the

Japanese can sometimes hardly be blamed for pursuing the easier role when it is also hugely profitable.

Even when American and Japanese politicians and businessmen are speaking the same language, they rarely mean the same thing. They also seem to change their tune depending on the audience. In Washington the Japanese invariably sound understanding and cooperative, promising to open up the Japanese market to American imports, but when they are back home in Japan, their speeches for home consumption are much tougher and self-serving, often putting the blame on the Americans for not trying as hard to compete as the Japanese. The Japanese, in fact, sometimes sound the way the Americans used to sound about the British, that they don't work hard enough and need to be more adaptable in foreign markets.

This attitude suggests Japanese leaders don't yet fully understand the change in American public opinion. The patriotic sentiment that accepted Japan as a bulwark against the Chinese and Soviet Communist giants has lost much of its appeal since relations between China and the Soviet Union became more ambiguous and China more open to westerners. The need for a strong Japan at any price is no longer a popular argument.

The Japanese have officially tried to change their ruthless image by such token gestures as setting up factories in the US run by Japanese executives but employing American workers. Keep the jobs at home, right? A mini-flood of Japanese culture, ranging from Kabuki theatre to Sumo wrestling, has tried to give Americans a picture of the other side of Japan. There has also been a vast increase in the number of such propaganda centres as Japanese restaurants.

Yet in their business suits with their tough, laconic business vocabulary and their reverence for financial success and the new technology, they seem far more influenced by Americans than Americans ever are by them. The great Japanese writer, Yukio Mishima, who blended Japanese and American literary styles, condemned Japan's current materialistic values and its rejection of ancient traditions just before

his public suicide. Instead of answering his charges, for a significant moment in the number of Customs officials to deal with the problem. It cuts the numbers of Customs investigators and Inland Revenue staff though, according to official figures which have just been released, each VAX controller on average discovers unpaid tax amounting to £104,800 a year—compared to the £19,000 a year it costs to employ them.

Instead of concentrating on looking for those areas of inefficiency and waste—not too difficult to find in a bureaucracy of 600,000—the Government has decided to argue it out with vested interests in Whitehall, simply decided to impose cuts across-the-board. Manpower cuts, which have led to the loss of over 100,000 Civil Service jobs (though with many simply transferred to quangos) have been repeatedly described by Mrs. Thatcher and the Treasury as a policy in its own right. Critics, including many in Whitehall, describe it as a substitute for policy, an excuse not to come to grips with the serious problems of the country.

For after more than six years in office, the Thatcher government's attitude towards the role of Whitehall has been one of "efficient management" remains confused and inconsistent. Michael Heseltine, for example, is widely criticised by civil servants for his military advisers alike for being so preoccupied by Civil Service cuts and reorganising the management structure of his department that he ignores the need for a serious debate about the substance of defence policy. This preoccupation has encouraged suspicion even among Tory backbenchers, that decisions to privatise services or jobs are as much a ploy to hived-off the work of royal dockyards in private companies—as is motivated more by pressure to reduce the Civil Service payroll than to make genuine savings and increase efficiency.

Heseltine, who talks about the need for efficient management more than any other minister, has not cleared himself to the Commons defence committee by selectively juggling with figures and refusing to give evidence even about the money the Ministry of Defence wastes by keeping stores of unwanted goods and equipment. Ministers say they want to motivate civil servants by good management and per-

DIARY

WHY OH WHY, in the bidding for a British venue for the Olympics, have the claims of our cathedral cities so outrageously been ignored? Particularly those small, unsopit medieval gems whose deans and chapters deserve a Queen's Award for their industry in making admissions charged to cathedrals, and giving short shrift to bone die worshipers claiming exemption.

Some have been even more mammoth-grubbing. Canterbury is building a pilgrimage centre, Lincoln is erecting a shrine to bone die worshipers claiming exemption. Others have turned their noses up to virtual tourist malls. Salisbury would have been a marvellous choice for the games, but the authorities have spoiled their record—they were the first to extract an entrance donation from visitors to the cathedral. Recent opposition by their Shell UK's plan to extract oil from a site near the Cathedral Close.

Surely the derrick could be built inside Salisbury's 40ft spire? It would be the sort of cunning conservation Shell is so good at; the flame on top could serve as the Olympic torch. At a stroke, the cathedral's massive under-use and huge restoration costs would be helped in its new dual use as drilling platform and international sports stadium, after the Olympic roadshow moves on.

There are a lot of pushy bishops who can't be happy with the choice of Birmingham as the venue. A consortium of them should get together and, even now, make a rival submission. The immense attraction of a three-city package, based on the Three Choirs Cities—Gloucester, Hereford and—orchestra—could sway the Olympic organisers. High time we had the Born Again Olympics since so many of the competitors are Born Again Christians.

SINCE family doctors recently decided to become interested in ordinary patients again, the Royal College of GPs has sensibly decided to help them improve their consulting room manner. The college has got a scheme whereby doctors visit and assess their peers in surgery situations. A new report even suggests using video recording equipment, so that GPs can play back encounters with patients, and see where they went right. The College advises that a camera, recorder, microphone and wires should be as unobtrusive as possible so that they remain unnoticed by both doctor and patient. Doctor, what's that wide-angle lens doing in your stethoscope?

WHAT with ringing the White House every hour to find out what kind of a job the embalmers are making of Ronnie, there are thousands of tiny details which the Prime Minister and her Office can't be expected to remember correctly. Like the name of the recently appointed Poet Laureate. When Ellie Phillips wrote to Downing Street deploring the Falklands spirit and Ted Hughes's poem "Griefs For Dead Soldiers" (which she was studying for O Level English) for the PM's perusal, the reply came back: "Dear Ted, the Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your recent letter, etc."

AMNESTY International has a huge conscience and a modest budget, so it must be careful when it spends money on itself—to do justice to itself. It cost £1 million to convert an old factory in London into their new HQ. Yes, they've got more employees than ever, but then so has Amnesty, and then so has the building. The building has just won the Administrative Management Office of the Year Award. Tacit pride is the tone of a press statement from the architects Kohn Pedersen Associates. But considering the oppressed whom Amnesty helps, unfortunate to describe the office layout as "cellular."

John Cunningham



The soap-opera history of chaps

Ben Pimlott on Lord Blake



The Conservative Party from Peel to Thatcher, by Robert Blake (Methuen, £19.95). The Decline of Power, 1915-1964, by Robert Blake (Granada, £18).

I HAVE never met Lord Blake but I feel quite fond of him. At Oxford in the late 1950s he was one of the few Tories whose lectures it was possible to attend and stay awake. While our contemporaries at Berkeley and Essex enthused over Marcuse, we trotted in eagerly to hear Robert Blake on British Prime Ministers, one a session.

There were no concessions to modernity. The style was that of a Tory squire, the characterisations were vivid, the facts marginal, the jokes low-brow and distinctly funny. For this reviewer, therefore, these two books, especially Peel to Thatcher, an up-date of a volume based on 1968 Ford Lectures — feel like a sentimental journey.

Blake's secret, both in spoken and in written word, is a warm and human consciousness of his audience and a willingness to address himself to the ordinary, ignorant citizen, which is what, beneath a veneer of learning, we all are. Theology? Fiddlesticks. Methodology? Humbug. History, is about class.

Blake's Conservatives are a shifting oligarchy of grandees, with the leader always centre stage, and the shadowy often apolitical rank-and-file over in the wings. Personalities are paramount. From uneasy Robert to intuitive Stanley, from tenacious Winston to unpopular Ted, the Tory saga is presented as gripping, stratospheric soap opera.

Not that Blake neglects the history of Conservatism. What is true Conservatism? The author is tactful about the present leader, even suggesting that Thatcherism may come closer to the hallowed heritage than the Tory dogmatism of the early part of the decade.

On the other hand, he has little time for the higher logic of Sir Keith Joseph, and there is a barbed passage about the alleged "radicalism" of the present regime. Blake prefers the term "reactionary" in its correct sense of seeking to move backwards.

One important question remains unanswered in the otherwise admirable supplementary chapters to this book. Where did the reaction come from? The change in leadership has certainly been a factor, but so has the shift in Parliament from Etonians to estate agents. Here, the examination of key individuals is not enough.

Peel to Thatcher is a new edition of a specialist classic. The Decline of Power is an energetic canter through half a century of general history. The result is "popular" history in the sense that it will be popular among those for whom it is intended: a book of limpid clarity, witty, intensely readable with, as always, the scholarship worn lightly. It is also endearingly shameless in its prejudices. The Tory squire sometimes breaking into a gallop.

Blake is a very English historian, blending Bryant and (perhaps surprisingly) Taylor. There is a mixture of robust patriotism and wry paradox, laced with beguiling simplifications. Good yarns are favoured over dull verities. It is delightful to read

that Germany surrendered sooner than necessary in 1918 because Ludendorff had a fit and fell foaming on the carpet. And who but a puritan would object to eight finely written pages on Edward and Mrs Simpson, against only five on social reforms during the Churchill coalition?

Blake is best on wars (his accounts of grand strategy during the two world conflicts are masterpieces of compression) and is weakest — as one might predict — on the Left in politics, and on the masses. While showing a paternalistic interest in the welfare of the poor, he regards as "rather naïve" a remark by Major Denis Healey in 1945 that "the upper classes in every country are selfish, depraved, dishonest and decadent". Selfishness and depravity are more evident among the lower orders: the first in their wage demands, the second in their habits.

On habits, he is genial. "People were fairly drunk during the two world conflicts," he writes of public behaviour on VE-Day (offensively to whom?). "As night fell the unruly party went over to love-making and it was hard to walk through them without tripping over writhing couples thus occupied until well into the small hours of the morning."

Sex interests him quite a bit, and there is a pleasing section on contraception. It is fascinating to learn that, in the 1930s, 70 per cent of married couples practised *coitus interruptus*. Thank heaven for private laundries and for servants, another of Lord Blake's preoccupations.

Thus he encapsulates the predicament of a genteel generation: "servants had vanished, and washing-machines had not yet appeared." Well, not quite vanished, provided you were rich enough. But servants were more prickly and more liable to be crooked.

Blake sees 1947, year of crisis over convertibility, as the turning-point in the "decline of power": and 1956, year of Suez, as the start of a continuing slide in national self-esteem. Suez was also a marker for the Conservatives, even though they won the next election. He makes the excellent point that the intellectual tide turned against the Tories at this time.

By contrast, Margaret Thatcher had the advantage of an intellectual which flowed in her favour. "Which brings us back to the history of chaps — 'opinion-formers' not social forces as the arbiters of change."

When reviewing an author of Lord Blake's eminence (biographer of Disraeli, Heath peer, head of an Oxford college) one needs to shut one's eyes and ask: how would these books be received if they had been written by a part-timer at Lanchester poly?

There is certainly much in the plain sweep of both works, the side-steps and occasional less than Olympian platitudes, that would not be permitted to a mere polytechnician. Such is the nature of our caste system.

Yet both books also contain erudition, worldly wisdom and humour in abundance. For the non-apologetic, they are excellent holiday reading and the perfect antidote to a surfeit of History Workshop.

Scouting on the edge of Empire

by Geoffrey Moorhouse

The Frontier Scouts, by Charles Chenevix Trench (Cape, £15). Beyond Bokhara: the life of William Moorcroft, by Garry Alder (Century, £16.95).

NOT MANY British imperial myths, I suspect, stand up to close examination as well as those of the North-west Frontier. How very improbable it is, for example, that an officer's mess in the Pakistan Army should still decorate its walls, a full generation after independence, with the portraits of old imperial commanders: but I can vouch for that, one I saw such photo-graphs a couple of years ago at the headquarters of the Chitral Scouts, high up in the mountains of the Hindu Raj; and the silver the Brits had presented from time to time, boyish inscriptions and all, most carefully polished every day.

Until reading Charles Chenevix Trench's lively account of the various Frontier Scout units, I did not know that Sherpa Tensing (of Everest) had served with the Chitralis for five years as orderly to their last British commander, Mr W. E. White. He apparently made a name for himself as a cook of marvellous souffles concocted at 12,000 feet and above, when the Scouts were goshing round that vertiginous little state to ensure that nothing hostile came over the passes out of Afghanistan or Soviet Turkmenistan. Which is pretty much what they were doing when I dropped by in 1983.

Scouts differed from all other outfits in the Indian Army in that they normally served nowhere but in the Frontier districts where they were raised. Part soldiers, part policemen, they were recruited for their toughness and their local savvy, both to repel possible invaders and to keep tribesmen on the British side of the Durand Line under control. They were tribesmen themselves, and it was not uncommon for members of the same family to be shooting on opposite sides in a Frontier skirmish.

Their toughness was, and is, phenomenal. Patrons of Afghan columns were taken to march through Waziristan at 10 miles a day, but the South Waziristan Scouts went through those hills at five miles an hour. A battalion of Gliff Scouts once did 27 miles in three hours and then fought a battle at the end of it.

Bulldozing sabirs from

Sandhurst cut little ice in such company, and those Brits who were attracted to Scouting, and who stayed the night, were regarded by their fellow countrymen as an eccentric and maybe subversive bunch. As Fitzmaurice who spoke fluent Pushtu with a West Cork Republican was, singularly, not under the C-in-C's nose. You needed to be slightly cracked, perhaps, to put yourself perpetually at risk up there.

Captain Bowring was murdered by a Scout sentry for ignoring a sleeping with his feet towards Mecca. The sentry was then executed by his own brother — after agreeing to this — so as to avoid the possibility of blood feud. I don't know the Frontier. One of the first Englishmen to penetrate the region was that remarkable Lancastrian William Moorcroft, whose even earlier distinction was to be our first formally trained veterinary surgeon.

It was virtually suicidal for a European to travel in those parts at the time, and Moorcroft appears to have survived his entry into Waziristan only because he was under the protection of a holy man deeply grateful for the horse doctor's relief of his herd.

In the course of a journey lasting almost six years, which took him astonishingly to the other side of Bokhara, and from which he did not return, Moorcroft seems to have spent at least as much time treating grateful tribesmen as doing anything else. He also regularly passed back to the Calcutta Government topographical and other notes of great strategic value.

He became, in short, a spy, the first player of the Great Game, but entirely off his own bat: his superiors thought him an over-imaginative and unbalanced Russian, though some years after his death most of Moorcroft's forecasts were proved remarkably accurate.

He was that most valuable of all travellers, the man who is curious about everything that crosses his path, and who bothers to get it all down on paper. What's more, Dr Alder reckons that he was a moral traveller, the man who shamefully edited in 1841 made him out to be.

And Dr Alder himself, our most distinguished historian of the region, has produced a moral topographical and other notes of great strategic value.

Family hush money

by Ann Shearer

Marthe: a woman and her family: a fin-de-siècle correspondence, anon, translated by Donald M. Frame (Viking, £12.95).

AS MARTHE'S appalling Aunt Sophie once said of the "moral and material disorder" of her niece's room, it has the effect of "those novels one doesn't read". But read, of course, one does, and avidly. And what novelist would dare the twists and turns so artlessly chronicled in this cache of letters.

An American, pregnant — and by a farmanhand this in 1892? How to hush it up, to save the family name? The fight from the Normandy chateau to the south, the sellings up, the stinking of the chateau, the purchase of a "proper" husband and the continuing appalling consequences of deceit and counter-deceit, law suit, scandal and divorce — all are detailed in the anguished letters between mama and her brother, with other relatives chipping in with lamentation.

advice and a keen eye to the considerable family fortune.

Here encapsulated is a class caught in its own pretensions, and the essential ambivalence of the very notion of family love and loyalty as well as the sexual reality of the sexuality of the day — prudent, repressed, dangerous, destructive. What alas Marthe is, fashionably, "hysteria". Yet mama turns out to have condoned her daughter's amorous years: dead papa, it transpires, has passed on the syphilis he contracted from a dancer.

Marthe got her revenge by willing a fair chunk of the family fortune out of their grasp altogether. But what an enigma, even after ten years. She remains her own letters are few and contradictory. She is fashioned, finally, of the projections of others — of the "moral and material disorder" that is their own. But could that Sophie, mama and the rest ever have understood that this is where the real drama of the suffering lay — for them as well as her?

EVE: HER STORY

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A magical re-telling of the oldest tale in the world... a magnificent novel Amos Oz £9.95

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Gollancz

Labour's challenge

Kenneth O. Morgan

A History of British Trade Unions since 1889. Vol 1: 1911-1933, by Hugh Armstrong Clegg (Clarendon Press, Oxford, £40).

"ON 'field' — that, in the considered view of Herbert Smith of the Yorkshire miners, was the appropriate place for British trade unionism in the turbulent years that followed 'the great unrest' of 1911-14.

Hugh Clegg's new volume in this authoritative history of the unions, following on a study of the years 1889-1910 by A. Thompson, Alan Fox and himself published back in 1963, provides a calm and lucid account of how far the TUC carried out Smith's advice. Truly, this was labour's heroic age. It witnessed legendary confrontations — Tonypandy, Black Friday, Red Friday, the general strike — and threw up charismatic leaders — Smillie, Bevin, Cook. The call for direct action, for syndicalism or other forms of workers' control, was aggressively proclaimed.

Union membership underwent a unique cycle of growth and decline, dramatic upsurge during and just after the First World War, followed by a decade or more of recession, defeat and victimisation. Collective bargaining became nationwide, rather than focusing on local district agreements. The TUC General Council acquired easy access to central government, though storms were often to result.

Only in the final phase after 1926, dominated by the supreme apparatus of Citrine, did a more pragmatic outlook prevail. Social transformation now gave way to piecemeal negotiation. Citrine's knighthood in 1935 confirmed the unions' new status. The rogue elephant had metamorphosed into the earthworm.

On the structural and institutional features of the

period, Clegg provides superb guidance. His synoptic survey will surely remain the classic account of this key phase of the British industrial experience. The handling of the expansion of collective bargaining under Lloyd George's aegis in 1914-22 is masterly throughout. So, too, is the discussion of the unions' regrouping in the Mond-Turner era after 1926.

The miners, of course, dominate much of the book. Here Clegg admirably combines broad sympathy with a critique of the miners' tactical weaknesses, their commitment to unrealistic objectives such as the "profits" pool in 1921 and their exaggerated view of the nationwide havoc which their industrial muscle could create.

On the dynamics of trade unionism, as opposed to state institutions and procedural developments, the book is rather less valuable. Significantly, it relies on published sources, most of them deriving from the unions, instead of on the more varied material drawn from private individuals or the public records.

We learn too little of the experience of unionists at the workplace and their reaction to the managers' interpretations of their views. Externally, we have insufficient discussion of the response of politicians, civil servants, police and military chiefs or the wider public to the challenge that a growing militant mass movement of organised workers seemed to represent.

One important element in British trade-union history is underplayed here — the element of fear. However irrationally, the emergence of a new mass movement, especially in the wake of the Russian revolution, inspired a psychosis of alarm within the governing elite. The swelling impact of trade union power, recently analysed by Henry Phelps Brown's latest book, is not properly emphasised.

Clegg's volume is a triumph for a Citrine-like solidity, logic and inner coherence. Yet, by stressing institutional growth and structural process, it presents a curiously Whiggish interpretation. We are offered a labour movement that owes more to Macaulay than to Methodism, let alone Marx.

THIS is fiction's parched sea-bed, one of those small remote islands in the Kalahari. Take for example Penelope Farmer's *Eve: Her Story*. At first glance — at second glance too — it does not seem to represent much more than some neat doodling with the myth of Genesis. Better a teasing, though, than hollow profundities in the garden, and the book's blessed lack of portentousness is one of those small mercies.

This *Eve* is a bit of a bird-brain initially; it may have been part of the divine purpose to keep her like that, a nice toy for her partner on a rainy afternoon, but the divine purpose has been in cahoots with Adam in keeping dark the existence of the Other Woman. Lillith (why is she afflicted with a permanent shadow?) Eve can be dated from the time she first smells a rat in Eden after her innocent dreams of an idyllic threesome.

It says much for Eve's femininity that she accepts her lot as wife and mother and, in the meantime, the experience of the male principle. Jehovah is a pompous old sugar-daddy whose displeasure is not the end of the world. Adam is no great shakes after the priestly rapist Lucifer proves a rapist and may be the father of Cain (the good angels, forever whingeing about the new favourite, Man, are of course sexless).

It was Adam who egged her on to the forbidden apple, the serpent carries the can and teaches her most of what is useful about which side the bread of affliction is buttered. I once knew a Welsh suburban master who put a rapist charge in a newspaper during the First World War for carving his initials on the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. Ms Farmer may not have gone so far, but she leaves a freckle on the face of Pre-history is tricky stuff to handle. William Golding



Duff Hart-Davis



Penelope Farmer

Eve and Adam

Christopher Wordsworth on new fiction

Eve: Her Story, by Penelope Farmer (Gollancz, £9.95). *Pillar of the Sky*, by Cecilia Holland (Gollancz, £9.95). *The Man-Eater of Jassapur*, by Duff Hart-Davis (Cape, £9.95).

Careful With the Sharks, by Constantine Philps (Cape, £9.95). *Inside, Outside*, by Herman Wouk (Collins, £11.50).

managed it with rare imagination. In *The Inheritors*, although I had a mixed reception, and one vaguely remembers Adam's Breed as one of Jack London's less impressive efforts. Cecilia Holland, one of the best and most original of present historical novelists, takes the building of Stonehenge for her setting in *Pillar of the Sky*. In the mists of the Stone Age the novelist, while conforming to the idea of a primal ooze, springs from thoughts and emotions derive, must be cautious linking them to lives which we cannot avoid picturing as nasty, brutish and short.

The author's attempt here to get inside the skull of not-so-primitive man steers clear of most emotional anachronism and bogus empathy, one only real caviar being the platitudinous ending as the

builder-in-chief over-reaches himself and is crushed by his own sense of the present at the morning of history, the bardic tone does not grate. The words of men are as chaff that the wind blows off the threshing floor. The deeds of men are as grain that falls to the earth and remains — with at least half of which sentiment Ms Farmer's *Eve* would concur.

Indians may have become less overbearing to the toilers since *savagery* but one takes leave to doubt it. So *The Man-Eater of Jassapur* makes a questionable start by upgrading sense of concern. Corrective entertainment for Cabinet ministers in the summer recess.

The *Outcast* by Tony Hillerman (Gollancz, £9.95). *Home on reservation* takes Navajo cop into white man's wicked world to emerge reassured the tribal ways are ancient. Over-dressed with skin cosmology but has plenty of well anchored suspense. *Deathwatch* by Ray Harrison (Quartet, £8.95) — it has no such inhibition. A *Blurred Reality* (Crime Club, £7.50) is set in the distressed North-east with unemployment as the central evil from which others flow. Beginning with a move to nail a loan shark battering on the needy, it broadens into a brisk, murky kidnapping-and-murder mystery. What singles it out is a sharp recognition of what life can be like at the bottom of the heap. Without preaching, the excitements are edged with a

The first prize?

A FEELING that the literary prize business is becoming at least as much a matter of competition between prize-givers as between authors is strengthened by a rather gung-ho announcement from Whitbread.

For 14 years now, the venerable brewery has been dishing out prizes for biography and adult and children's fiction, recently adding welcome further rewards for first novels and new short stories. The prize money was divided between the winners in useful £3,000 cheques. This year, however, someone has thought a way around without vastly increasing the overall cost, of being able to claim for Whitbread the

"biggest British Prize" prize. From now on, the judges in each category will be asked to nominate only one book as their "Whitbread nomination". These will be announced on November 12, and the author of each nomination will win £1,000. Then on January 28, the Whitbread Book of the Year, winning £17,500 for its author, will be announced at a do which has itself been promoted from a lunch to a dinner.

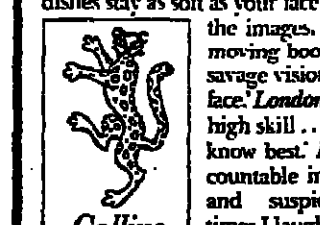
So, Booker-McConnell and W. H. Smith: your move. (But don't forget that form has been somewhat upset anyway by Mohammed Ali Fayed, the owner of the Ritz in Paris who this year announced a prize in honour of an old patron. The Ritz Paris Ernest Hemingway Award is for a novel in English, and the winner will be announced in the "Hemingway tradition" of excellence, and ticketed at 50,000 dollars.)

Matthew Coady's

DOCK BRIEFS

CONTEMPORARY bread and butter problems are usually side-stepped on the crime shelf. Roy Lewis, to his credit, has no such inhibition. A *Blurred Reality* (Crime Club, £7.50) is set in the distressed North-east with unemployment as the central evil from which others flow. Beginning with a move to nail a loan shark battering on the needy, it broadens into a brisk, murky kidnapping-and-murder mystery. What singles it out is a sharp recognition of what life can be like at the bottom of the heap. Without preaching, the excitements are edged with a

"The reader is happy... sailing through the exuberant prose, enjoying the similes and metaphors, the comparisons and images, which, like the Cornish seas, fizz and splash along the strongly flowing narrative." *Listener* "He details... with great subtlety... the geographical, emotional and spiritual state of the land." *Time Out* "Vanity has led Raban to take too many pages to tell too petty a tale." *F. Raphael*, *Fogues* "Engaging, eventful, often very funny and quite beautifully written..." *The Times* "A superbly written book... few contemporary writers can have evoked so powerfully the temper and texture of the ocean." *Sunday Telegraph* "Throughout, the writing is fresh and vigorous... this tough and humorous portrait of a man's life... *Illustrated London News* "George, gingerly aloft in gale-force winds, unaware of the symbolic softness of his craft, singing 'Hands dish up stay as soft as your face' as he wills himself along the coast, is one of the images, funny/sad, that linger long after the last pages of this surprisingly moving book." *New Statesman* "There is no contesting the book's seriousness, its savage vision and its dire conclusions... the writing often stings like spray in the face." *London Magazine* "Raban's writing is a delight. He phrases every nuance with high skill... he travels resonantly into unfamiliar aspects of the land we think we know best." *Mail on Sunday* "Throughout, England impinges, hostile and unaccountable in the intensity of its coarseness, greed, resentment and suspicion." *Literary Review* "Beautifully written, expertly constructed, funny, full of good characters and inventive situations..." *Daily Telegraph* "This is a rich, inventive narrative, held together by a net of resonant symbols, brilliantly comic at times, and so full of good stuff as to make most other novels look undernourished and etiolated." *Times Literary Supplement* "Very well written indeed. The prose is crisp, taut, full of sardonic metaphors." *Kaleidoscope* "Highly accomplished... exhilarated by its skill and punch. I read on..." *Financial Times* "A joy to read." *Guardian*



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WHSMITH

Last week Margaret Thatcher was forced to move over and make room on the Design Bandwagon for an unlikely companion, Frances Morrell, leader of the ILEA. Brenda Polan attended the gala fashion show at County Hall at which Ms Morrell launched the controversial amalgamation of art schools and specialist colleges which will, from next year, form the London Institute. Elaine Deed set out to discover what has become of the funds promised by the other lady to aid the "design-led" revival of Britain's clothing industry. And Prudence Glynn, long-term observer of the fashion industry, gives a personal view of the work of this year's top fashion graduates, those leaving the Royal College of Art with MA after their names



Intricately cut and detailed when necessary by Keith Wheeler, St Martin's School of Art



Wider cutouts by John Platt, St Martin's School of Art



Bustles and frills by Helen Tull, London College of Fashion



Bright printed silks by Honor Mathews, London College of Fashion

Words aren't worth a button

A DECLARATION of support for the fashion industry and the training of designers was made by a representative of the Government on the same evening as the ILEA show at County Hall last week, in London, at the official opening of an exhibition of design students' work.

The Government itself has taken a very active role in promoting the increased use of designers, announced Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Industry David Trippier as he launched One Step Ahead at Hyper Hyper in Kensington, featuring the combined talents of over 35 selected students from throughout the country.

"Through the Design Advisory Service Funded Consultancy scheme we provide financial assistance for the use of design consultants," he continued referring to a newly created design register of over 100 freelance designers. "A substantial number of clothing and textile firms have taken advantage of this. We have also been helping in the design management field."

There have been significant strides made over the last few years in bringing in more designers to work within the industry, he pointed out, adding: "However, I do feel we need to go further along the route. As a country we devote considerable resources to our fashion colleges. What is perhaps disappointing is that we do not always seem to be getting as much in return from this investment as we might."

"Given this investment and the wealth of talent coming out of our colleges we should be more effective in matching the performance of countries like Italy."

One way forward suggested by Mr Trippier was by "continuing to increase the number of designers in the garment industry. I suspect that there are also still too few designers in senior managerial posts and fewer still with business status in our industry," he commented. There is still, many in the industry would say, too little actual investment from the Government to match such stirring words.

Over a year ago £20 million was promised by the Trade and Industry Secretary, Mr Norman Tebbit, to help small companies in the textiles, clothing, knitwear and footwear industries to invest in modern plant and machinery. So far neither designers nor manufacturers have seen a button's worth of the aid. The scheme, known as CLOFT, was rejected by the EEC commission in Brussels as not being compatible with EEC state aid rules, earlier this year.

Since then organisations within the industry have sought to rechannel the funds that were set aside. The British Clothing Industry Association has applied for a part to assist with the fitting out costs involved in moving to new shared premises with the British Knitting and Clothing Export Council in September — all part of a move within the industry to put its own house in order with closer cooperation between trade organisations.

There is also an application for the development of the British Fashion Council to support its role in the design and the promotion of London Fashion Week.

However, the principal submission for between £10 million-£15 million has been put forward by the British Textile Confederation and the Knitting Industries' Federation for funds to re-equip colleges and research association with up-to-date machinery.

If the Government actually approves the allocation of such an amount to an area where, conversely, it has been actively making cuts, the irony will be that Britain will then be producing not only talented but also technically advanced clothing.

And the countries in the EEC party to the rejection of the original CLOFT scheme, will also benefit from the choice of even better trained designers and clothing technologists from our fashion colleges.

Indirectly, government aid is available through various schemes aimed at assisting enterprise and development. On the export side, however, deduction in money available. "And the industry will soon depend on its exports for survival," states Peter Randle, director of the British Knitting and Clothing Export Council, pointing out that this year's contribution to the economy is targeted at £1.4 billion.

Export support has been diverted from Europe to North America, particularly the USA, where knitwear and clothing have had "a phenomenal success," according to Mr Randle.

Unless the now strengthened pound is weakened, by a reduction in interest rates, he points out, British goods will become less competitive again.

Elaine Deed is group fashion editor of Drapers Record and Men's Wear.

One Step Ahead at Hyper Hyper, 26-40 Kensington High Street, London W8, is open Monday to Saturday, 10 am-6 pm (Thursday 10 am-7 pm), until August 31. Admission free.

Elaine Deed

And so, on with the show

THE sombre, endless corridors of County Hall have doubtless witnessed some fairly jolly goings-on in the past but nothing, one hazards, quite so flamboyantly cheerful as last week's slightly disorientated-looking crowd of fashion students, lecturers, designers, public relations persons, consultants and journalists assembling for that august building's first (but not last) fashion show.

In fact, not all the slightly puritanical denizens of the GLC's South Bank fortress were completely convinced that this was a suitable purpose to which to put their facilities. The leader of ILEA, however, who adores fashion shows and whose brainchild this one was, was unabashed. Frances Morrell, warm, ebullient, overflowing with enthusiasm, was having a wonderful time.

The show was a selection of the graduation collections of students from two of the colleges, St Martin's School of Art and the London College of Fashion, which will, at the beginning of next year, amalgamate with six others, Camberwell, Central and Chelsea schools of art and the London College of Printing, Furniture and Distributive Trades, to form the London Institute.

As Ms Morrell told the assembled throng: "The quality of British fashion design and textiles is recognised all over the world except perhaps in this country. This

when ILEA is deprived of the GLC's financial resources.

It is therefore, in the eyes of nervous lecturers, threatened course heads and secondary school teachers, hoping to encourage students towards one of the colleges involved, a cosmetised, cost-cutting exercise which is likely to result in parallel courses being combined, staff and student numbers being reduced and buildings closed.

The most often heard remark as the visitors sipped their GLC Special Reserve on the terrace overlooking the Thames was the one about the Government's intention to convert County Hall into a luxury hotel (with pied a terre suites for MPs from the shires). The educationists present lunched anew at each hearing as if a bleak bell was tolling out of the future.

Frances Morrell, for whom the evening was a double celebration, maintained a firmly positive approach. "On three occasions since 1979 the Government has contemplated the break-up or the abolition of the ILEA. The Abolition Bill which is currently before parliament initially empowered the Government to break ILEA by the simple process of laying an order before the House of Commons. That clause came before the House of Lords on May 13 and a vote to delete it from the Bill was won by a majority of nine. This week the Commons agreed unanimously to accept that amendment. London's unique education service has been saved."

And it is, her tone made it clear, safe in her committee's hands.

Given the projections and promises contained in Sir Keith Joseph's Green Paper, a reduction in both places and courses in higher education is on the cards. There is also reflected in the document Sir Keith's oft expressed preference for vocational further education. By pre-empting the DES and constructing an efficient, unified institute in which fine artists and furniture makers work cheek by jowl with printers and fashion designers, ILEA is possibly building a defence against later depredations. And it is trying to do it before it is bereft of the GLC's funds.

Hence last week's gala, organised not so much to satisfy (as she would have us believe) Ms Morrell's secret passion for fashion shows, but more to reassure the new Institute's component parts that ILEA is on a rescue mission not a wrecking expedition. It will take more than a £8,000 gala fashion show to thoroughly quieten all fears. Maybe only a change of government would do that.

Brenda Polan



Frances Morrell

event, which I hope will become an annual one, is ILEA's public tribute to our students. We can't grow cotton, but we can grow talent."

This last is a reference to Ms Morrell's belief that the country's future recovery will depend on the skills and talents of its people rather than on any other natural resources ILEA's plan for the London Institute (which, incidentally, very much in line with the ideas expressed in the Government's Green Paper on higher education published in May) is motivated by the need to streamline higher education provision in London (without jeopardising its quality) against the day



Printed wool and embroidered knitwear by Catherine Akhurst, St Martin's School of Art

Tat and black rags and an abundance of knots

THE LIGHTS in the auditorium dim. Before us is a stark and treacherous cat-walk, the entrance to which is a sloping maw. Could it be the mouth of Hades from which at any time Eurypides may emerge? But no, for there is a lack of Orphean twangings and instead huge puffs of smoke emitted from the hole 'midst sounds of heavy breathing.

We are undoubtedly in a French provincial opera house and about to witness their star production of Goude and Wagner. I opt for the former on the strength of the lack of flames to complement the snortings, even though French provincial opera houses are notorious. Then with the accents hits me. I am the horrid truth to be the game charge of a well-loved war horse, I am going to be sub-

jected to yet another over-produced, under-talented, over-long presentation of fashion of the type so deplored during the British ready-to-wear collections by the New York Times.

That the designers of this ensuing tale are students, the grant-aided (i.e. you and I) creature of the future textile industry is relevant; that they are students at the Royal College of Art, which argues that they are in their sixth year of learning how to make frocks, is even more so. The RCA enjoys university status, ergo it represents the finest potential talent in its various disciplines.

It is the only university in this country with a discipline in fashion and, since clothes are such an accurate barometer of social feeling, what

RCA students have to tell us must be heeded.

What a bit of luck then that successive governments have created a climate in design education which bears little relation to real life. Never mind that we have systematically destroyed the craft aspect of our indigenous talent — it is almost impossible to get good cutters or machinists for quality whole-sale clothes — while at the same time, by failure to invest in the machinery which might have replaced those lost skills, we have laid ourselves open to well nigh intolerable competition in a saturated market from countries with cheaper labour or sophisticated production methods. What matters is that we do not have to take the work of students too seriously.

Which is just as well, for the message from graduates of the RCA this summer is grim indeed. What is one to read into clothes which consist, in the main, of lengths of material (some exquisitely pretty, but then the RCA has no less than Bernard Neville to head its textile faculty) held together by knots except a determination to escape from some sort of bondage via the classic bed-sheet method? What occasioned the despair inherent in all these black rags a-flap, these gristy androgynes, cobbled together with no thought of perpetuity?

No wonder The Trade had a fit and that the day after the gala presentation East-castle and Great Portland Streets were filled with manufacturers clapping their Rolls-Royces and convinced

all over again the students are A Bad Thing.

What was particularly depressing was that there had seemed to me to be a new spirit of realism about in fashion education. I had been impressed by the London College of Fashion (usually dismissed as fit only for "indians" not chiefs) when it mounted a concentrated course in pattern cutting and sample machining under the aegis of the Manpower Services Commission. I had liked gutsy Preston and Liverpool Poly's shows, thought Julian Smith of Ravensbourne the next Kaffe Fassett and actually yearned to wear lots of wondrous shapes cut by Harrow. It appeared that Thatcherism on fashion might be more a benign influence than otherwise.

So I shall remain optimistic. There is always the class of '86 to look forward to and hopefully it will be peopled with students who combine that inventiveness which has caught the eyes if not the pocket-books of world style with a realisation that, as Jean Muir consistently points out, "no dress is a success until it is actually on the back of a woman in the street." Then perhaps we can stop being a knocking-off shop and restore our once superb manufacturing capacity by gaining its confidence. Only when they can prove their worth "on the bottom line" will British designers earn the greater appreciation outside the Press which they truly deserve.

Prudence Glynn

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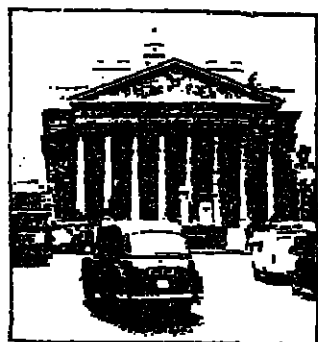
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Why have we had to wait so long for the police to be called in at JMB?



NOTEBOOK

Hamish McRae

SO THE Chancellor has called in the police at Johnson Matthey.

The statement by the Chancellor in the Commons yesterday changes the perspective of the Johnson Matthey business in two

ways. In the first place it makes it seem all the more odd that the Bank of England should have asserted that there was no evidence of fraud. The Bank was always specific on this point: it never said there was no fraud; merely that there was no evidence of it. But there will be no evidence of a crime if you give the offenders some weeks to remove the incriminating documents, assuming they were even there in the first place.

At best, yesterday's statement makes the Bank's previous assertions look naive. At worst, it means that the Bank has unwittingly misled the City, upon whose support it has relied to carry out the rescue.

This leads on to the second point. It is, perhaps, reasonable to expect the City institutions to pay to support the integrity of a financial system. You can argue that it was

in the ultimate interests of clearing bank shareholders that they should pay something to help retain confidence in the gold market. For had that gone the run on London banks might eventually have led to the collapse of Midland itself. That is what the Bank feared. You may choose to disagree with that argument but at least it is a decent argument, if it was merely incompetence involved.

But if there was fraud involved, the argument becomes harder to sustain. You are asking people who have had no part in a crime to help pay the cost of it. You can justify it pragmatically but morally it is much harder. If a clearing bank shareholder launched a shareholder suit against the clearing banks for supporting the rescue, how would they defend their action? By saying the Bank bullied them into it?

There is perhaps one further point to be made. We have an extraordinary lax attitude to fraud investigations in this country. Had there been a regular bank robbery of several hundred millions, the police would have been in on day one. Here we have waited nine months. And in the case of London, though the papers are with the Director of Public Prosecutions, he is apparently unable to make up his mind whether to act years after the event.

Write-offs

BY UNHAPPY COINCIDENCE, Charter Consolidated, a principal victim of the Johnson Matthey saga, yesterday revealed the cost of this particular investment, with the near £50 million write-off that it has made.

The obvious point here is to ask whether Charter could have been required to do

more for its associate company? It now owns, albeit at considerable cost, a potentially successful continuing business. Charter itself, despite its string of disastrous investments, remains a substantial industrial holding group with a market capitalisation approaching £200 million. It would be unreasonable to expect it to pick up the whole tab for the affair, for it only had a minority interest in Johnson Matthey. But it does not seem to have picked up losses proportionate to its ownership.

The responsibilities of significant shareholders of banking institutions are still extremely ill-charted, and the Bank of England will find it harder to nail down major shareholders of banking institutions after this episode.

Halfway there

THE DOLLAR yesterday hit the halfway mark between

its high point against sterling at the beginning of the year and the \$1.80 level to which we suggested it will eventually go. But the probability that the course will have sharp upward bumps has, if anything, increased with the current slide.

To put the point more precisely, because the dollar has fallen faster against sterling than most market commentators expected three or four months back there is a greater chance that it will rebound in the autumn and not resume the downward path until, perhaps, next year.

One of the interesting things yesterday was the way the dollar bounced back on Paul Volcker's remarks. Though the slide has been pretty steady in the last week or so, it has not been a rout. There has been good two-way demand in the market most of the time. If the US economy does pick up in the third quarter, as many

expect we could see quite a long plateau in the dollar's external value.

The immediate thing the markets are focussing on is today's preliminary GNP figures for the second quarter. The first indication you get is the so-called "flash" estimate. We have had that and it showed 3.1 per cent growth. This is expected to be downgraded, perhaps to about 2.3 per cent. If they are below 2 per cent, that would represent very slow growth, with low loan demand and correspondingly low interest rate expectations. The dollar's fall would continue. If the figures show growth close to 3 per cent, the dollar should bounce back. And if you feel this is all a bit absurd, given the enormous revisions that are made to figures, you would doubtless be in good company.

Anyway, whatever today's figures say, people should be aware that there is a good

chance of a rebound of the US economy, of US interest rates, and of the dollar itself.

What does this imply for us? There is still a big enough gap between sterling and dollar interest rates to underpin the pound. The balance of opinion in the Treasury is probably that base rates will be down to about 10 per cent by November. But whether we get half of that in the next month or so is still very much in the air.

Given a reasonable outcome to the Opec meeting late this month, and given the money supply figures for the banking month which closed yesterday, you could certainly see a downward move in early August. But a lot hinges on the dollar, and if it were to move down sharply today, then we might have less time to wait than that. Conversely, if it rallies, the whole downward profile of UK interest rates could be delayed until after the summer.

Latest bid rejected out of hand by stores group

Burton comes back with £577m Debenhams offer

By Margaret Pagano, City Correspondent

Burton returned to battle yesterday with a new £577 million offer for the Debenhams group which was immediately and predictably rejected out of hand by the stores group.

Burton boss, Mr Ralph Halpern, warned that this is the final offer unless a rival bidder emerges. The new offer tops the original bid by over £100 million and the gut market response yesterday was that Burton will have a hard fight but may just about clinch the bid at this price.

Shares in Debenhams dipped 3p to 324p which is just below the cash alternative offer of 327p, reflecting the market's view that the shares have run out of steam and recent profit taking. Burton's shares slipped 17p to 458p and shares in Habitat-Mothercare fell 6p to 385p.

Burton's new offer is for three new Burton shares and either £3 of loan stock or £3 cash for five Debenhams shares. This puts a value on Debenhams shares of 345p which compares with a price of 414p before the recent capitalisation issue and the 1985 net asset value offer the property revaluation.

Mr Bob Thornton, Debenhams chairman, quickly rebuffed the new bid as still ignoring the record profit dividend per share and earnings increases made by the group. Debenhams has forecast profit before tax for the present year of about £60 million, a 47 per cent rise.

Debenhams remains convinced that Burton has absolutely nothing to offer the group in managing multi-level stores. "It is more attuned to running small high street multiple shops," he sniped.

But Mr Halpern responded just as smartly by adding that the 4.5 million square feet in Debenhams were the most under utilised assets in the trading scene. Burton has increased the offer because since the first offer it had the chance to see the profit forecast, the latest property revaluations and had looked closely at trading opportunities at many more of the stores.

On Tuesday evening Mr Halpern tried again to get Debenhams to put an offer price which they might consider hammering out over the table but drew a negative response from the board.

Burton is backing the bid

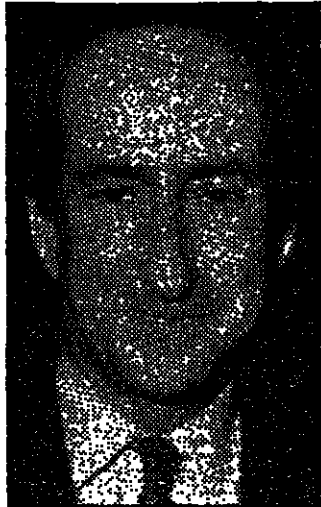
with a profit forecast for the year ending this August with no less than £78 million — a rise of 38 per cent on last year. If all shareholders take up the cash alternative offer of 327p and the cash element of the share mix Burton will be left with total borrowings of between £200 million and £300 million which would give a modest gearing on the new group of around 30 per cent.

After a swift buying spree from institutions on Tuesday Burton now has a 8.7 per cent stake in Debenhams. Acceptances to far have been around 1 per cent. The other main strategic shareholders, House of Fraser, with over 10 per cent has still to make its intentions clear. But Mr Halpern said Burton hoped HOF would consider the offer a "fair price". Only courtesy talks have been held between the two camps but Burton believes there are areas of mutual interest — particularly on the credit side of any enlarged business through Debenhams' Welbeck operation and Burton's own personal account.

Sir Terence Conran's Habitat Mothercare group is still supporting the bid with an agreement to take a 20 per cent stake in the group



Bob Thornton



Ralph Halpern

Further state sales lined up

By Michael Smith, Industrial Editor

Fresh impetus is being given to the Government's programme of public sector privatisations, with a further eight nationalised corporations lined up for sale.

Mr John Moore, the Financial Secretary to the Treasury and the Government's privatisation supremo, said yesterday that "at least" eight more corporations would be transferred to the private sector by the end of this Parliament.

The state-owned undertakings being prepared for sale include the National Bus Company, British Airways, Short Bros, Unipart, Rolls-Royce, the Royal Ordnance Factories, the

British Airports Authority and British Gas.

Mr Moore, speaking in the City, said if all the sales were achieved it would mean that the privatisation programme started in 1979, the proportion of GDP in the hands of the state industries would have dropped from 103 to 61 per cent.

"Over 600,000 jobs would have been transferred to the private sector," he said. "In the course of two Parliaments, we would have nearly halved government involvement in state-owned business and liberated a substantial proportion of economic activity from suffocation by the state."

Mr Moore also said that the government would not hesitate to extend privatisation to natural monopolies, clear reference to the likelihood of the sale of the water and electricity authorities, following the gas industry, into private hands.

He said that privatisation of British Telecom had paved the way for privatisation of natural monopolies, and added: "Gas, airports and possibly water are next."

Mr Moore insisted that privatisation provided the best basis for securing long-term wealth and employment creation. Privatisation, he said, increased productive efficiency, with private shareholders looking for a return on the investment. It also produced a wider

distribution of share ownership, and ownership in the private sector enabled firms to raise outside capital more easily.

Mr Moore said the establishment of OTEL showed how regulatory arrangements could be developed which were tough, transparent and provided full protection to customers and suppliers. "We will avoid the problems associated with any particular company in order to prevent regulatory capture," he said.

The government would continue to offer incentives to employers to buy shares in undertakings being transferred from the public sector, Mr Moore said.

Hoare Govett plans sell-off

By Margaret Pagano

HOARE GOVETT, one of the City's leading stockbrokers, is exploring ways of selling off minority interests in its fund management and retail financial services groups because of the potential conflicts of interests following deregulation.

Both groups, Hoare Govett Fund Management, with around £700 million of funds, and HG Financial Services, with private client business of some £1 billion, are wholly owned subsidiaries.

Hoare's management is becoming increasingly aware that these businesses should be run completely at arm's length to Hoare's main broking and market-making activities.

Hoare's managing director, Mr Richard West, said proposals were being considered which could introduce outside shareholders. "I am particularly concerned about the potential conflicts of interest with our retail financial services activities when we become market-makers following big bang."

He said the retail business would be in a far superior position to expand because of the independence it would have. Retail is likely to be kept and sold both in-house and other group's products. It would also relieve some of the tension which will obviously be created with Hoare's own market-making activities.

Proposals at this stage are tentative but options range from giving existing management equity stakes in the groups to selling to other financial or corporate institutions. Hoare is likely to want to keep control, so stakes of up to 40 per cent could be expected.

Other financial groups who have been or still are discussing buying out fund management are Mercury Securities, Kleinwort Benson and Morgan Grenfell.

Hoare will shortly announce probably next week a link with a well-established regional broking firm to expand its retail network. Talks are also being held with couple of the largest building societies, believed to include the Halifax and Abbey National, about possible agreements on packaging unit trusts and shares through their retail branches.

Hoare recently launched its Dealerall card service which allows private clients to buy shares over the telephone with portfolios starting at £750 with no-frills speedy execution.

Fraud within Property Services Agency gives MPs concern

By David Simpson, Business Correspondent

An all-party committee of MPs yesterday expressed its concern at the extent of fraud within the Property Services Agency, which handles the supply and maintenance contracts for all government buildings, and for overseas defence bases.

Pointing out that 69 cases of fraud had been identified in 1984, compared with only 18 the previous year, the Committee of Public Accounts called for steps to be taken to eliminate corruption within the PSA.

The committee's report acknowledged, however, that moves are already being undertaken to prevent fraud within the agency which undertakes £2 billion work annually, and the PSA's own argument that the high number of cases of corruption detected owed much to the agency's own improved

systems of reporting and accounting.

But the agency itself still believed that a serious situation still existed, the committee noted.

A PSA spokesman said in response to the report that only 17 of the 69 cases could actually be classified as instances of fraud involving PSA staff and outside contractors. The other 52 of the cases in question related to relatively minor instances of theft or deception by internal staff acting alone.

The possibility of widespread fraud and corruption within the PSA, which employs some 15,000 civil servants and 12,000 industrial staff, first arose in the late 1970s, and led to an external investigation of the agency.

The Inspector appointed, Sir Geoffrey Wardle, examined a number of cases involving several hundred thousand pounds

and concluded that these represented only "the tip of the iceberg".

Subsequently, the PSA management has been severely overhauled, a wide range of new monitoring procedures have been introduced, many staff have been censured or dismissed, and a number of legal actions have been taken. "We trust that, despite legal difficulties, the review by the management and personnel office will result in the removal of at least some impediments to prompt internal action, including correction of weaknesses in management giving rise to possible criminal charges," the Public Accounts Committee stated.

But, it added: "No agreement has been reached with the Director of Public Prosecutions on speeding up cases, which resulted in delays in action against culpable and negligent staff."

Crown Estate's £23m profit for Exchequer

By Michael Smith, Industrial Editor

The Crown Estate, which operates the Queen's property interests, made a £23 million contribution to the Exchequer during the past year.

The £23 million contribution was £4 million higher than a year earlier and marks a further stage in the increasing commercialisation of the Queen's estate.

The estate, which dates back to Edward the Confessor's reign in the 11th century, is part of the hereditary possession of the Queen, though the Queen has no direct interest in profits. Since 1760, when George III surrendered the estate's surplus to Parliament in exchange for the Civil List.

the estate has been administered by various boards of commissioners.

Financial accounts from the commissioners for 1984-5 show that total net revenue rose to £22 million from £21.7 million.

The estate owns an immense portfolio of ancient and modern property and property rights. It includes 268,000 acres of agricultural land in England, Wales and Scotland, half the foreshore around the coast of Britain in tidal rivers and large chunks of property in central London.

The current board chairman, the Earl of Crawford and Balcarres, says the objective is to show a good return to the Exchequer and to set high standards of rural and urban estate management.

Plessey shares leap amid rumours of bid

By Andrew Cornelius

The City was buzzing yesterday with rumours that a £1 billion plus takeover bid was being hatched for Plessey, the electronics group.

Plessey shares jumped by 12p to 146p during the day spurred by rumours that there had been a dawn raid on the company's shares. Stock market dealers suggested that the giant American telephone group, AT & T, was buying Plessey shares and wanted to build a 15 per cent stake. Britain's GEC, which is sitting on a £1 billion mountain of cash, was also tipped as a possible bidder.

Sir John Clark, Plessey's chairman, was unimpressed by the rumours. Plessey said it had no knowledge of any involvement by AT & T or any other reason why the share price had moved up.

Meanwhile analysts were calculating what it would cost to buy Plessey. Brokers De Zoete and Bevan concluded that on "modestly optimistic" assumptions Plessey shares could be worth 200p each. This would value the group at more than £1.4 billion, against the current market value of £1 billion.

Plessey shares have fallen in recent weeks in line with the general rating of the electricals and electronics sectors, where enthusiasm had waned after a string of bad results from companies like Racal and Thorn EMI.

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Dunlop will lose its smart address

By Mary Brasier

Years of decline, followed by financial collapse and a bitter takeover battle, removed most of the sheen of grandeur from Dunlop, once a corporate giant. But at least it hung on to its smart address: Sir James's House in King Street, near Piccadilly, as a symbol of better days.

That was until yesterday when BTR announced that it was looking for a buyer for the leasehold building. Dunlop, now assimilated into the BTR combine, is decamping to the more prosaic quarters occupied by BTR, whose modest offices at the back end of Victoria are more appropriate to Dunlop's reduced circumstances.

The Sir James's building is not without historic grandeur of its own. It was built on the site of the former Sir James's Theatre, dating back to 1835, and was the scene of the first production of Oscar Wilde's Importance of Being Earnest.

More recently the offices witnessed the drama of BTR chairman, Sir Owen Green, arriving to deliver his bid for the group at nine in the morning. A less glorious moment took place two months earlier when the flooding of the chairman's lavatory during a press conference threatened to engulf (though not literally) some of the spectacular boardroom coup which replaced Sir Maurice Hodgson and team with Sir Michael Edwards.

None of this, of course, appears in the building's biography which the agents, Barrington Laurence, are distributing to attract new occupants.

For BTR it is the second time they have found themselves with a prime West End building to sell as a result of a takeover. The acquisition of Thomas Tilling brought them to the building in Curzon Street, which was sold to the Kuwaiti for £37 million. The 15 years of unexpired lease on Sir James's House will probably fetch a less exciting £3.5 million.

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Taxation	13,087	9,890
Profit attributable	16,347	11,778
Earnings per share	16.04p	12.10p
Dividends per share	5.25p	4.00p

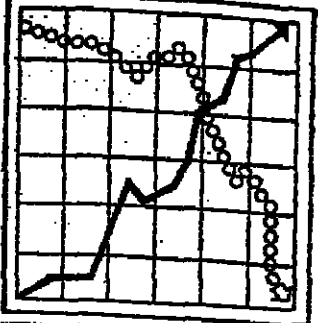
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Equities lose early gains

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How Thatcher's tax promises are hitting nearly everyone



ECONOMICS
Christopher Huhne

MRS THATCHER succeeded in giving a lot of people the impression that she intended to cut taxes, but the opposite has been the case. According to the latest calculations for the Guardian by the Institute for Fiscal Studies, only 6 per cent of the population are actually better off as a result of the tax and benefit changes which the Prime Minister has made since 1978-9, and they tend to be those who were richest to start with. Tax changes have made some 87 per cent unequivocally worse off.

These figures, shown in more detail in the graph, come from work by Andrew Dilnot and Evan Davis on the IFS's tax and benefit model which was launched publicly last week and is now available to answer all kinds of interesting questions.

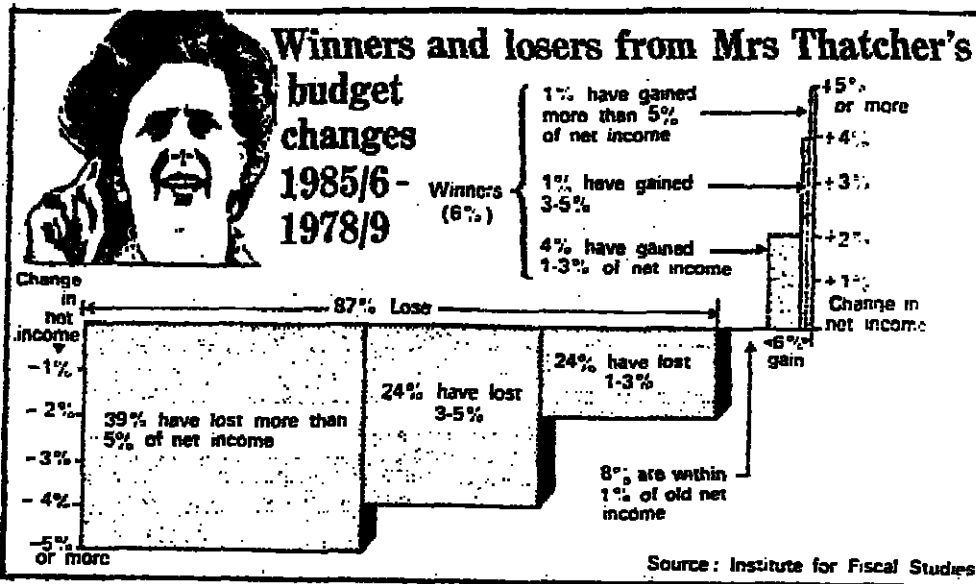
Under Mrs Thatcher, even direct taxes on income are only very slightly lower than they were in 1978-9. The rise in income tax allowances and the cut in the standard rate from 33 pence in the £ to 30 pence has been largely offset by the abolition of the reduced rate band at 25 pence and the rise in national insurance contributions from 64 per cent to 9 per cent.

If you then add in the near-doubling of VAT to 15 per cent, personal taxes are higher for almost everyone. If you take account of benefits too, the abolition of the earnings related unemployment benefit, the cuts in housing benefit and others, all add to many more households being even worse off as a result of tax and benefit changes.

The only people who have done relatively well out of Mrs Thatcher's budget changes are those whose pensions have outstripped the VAT rise and the handful of higher rate taxpayers whose extra VAT bills have been more than offset by Mrs Thatcher's sharp cuts in top tax rates.

People rarely claim that the Tories care about social equity, but the extent to which Mrs Thatcher's changes have disproportionately hit the poor is nevertheless surprising. The biggest cuts in net income are for those households with gross earnings of up to £35 a week, who are 64 per cent worse off.

The only group of house-



holds whose net income is up and those with gross earnings of more than £400 a week. In between, there is a progression so that the richer you are, the less is your cut in net income due to tax and benefit changes.

Let us be clear at this point what this exercise is measuring: it is a tightly defined question about the effects of tax and benefit changes on net incomes. In other words, it compares net income in 1984-5 on Mrs Thatcher's policies with what net income would have been in 1984-5 if the tax and benefit system had stayed as it was in 1978-9, with only the usual legal increases in allowances and excise duties in line with the rise in prices.

It therefore does not allow for changes in net income due to changes in gross earnings since 1978-9. Most people are clearly better off because their gross earnings have gone up. Nor does it allow for changes in the distribution of gross earnings. If it did, the picture of inequality would certainly be worse since, as I reported on April 11, the biggest real wage rises have been at the top, while the bottom 10 per cent have suffered real wage cuts.

In one sense this comparison bends over backwards in the government's favour, because we have assumed that allowances and so forth would only have been raised in line with prices since 1978-9 as the point of com-

parison. Since earnings generally rise faster than prices, this means that the government automatically benefits from taking a rising share of total incomes in tax — a variant of "fiscal drag". Arguably, allowances should have been raised in line with faster growing earnings if the government was to take the same share of total incomes in tax.

Mrs Thatcher might nevertheless argue that this exercise is unfair because taxes had to be raised or borrowing would have to be increased, or alternatively the poor harder than the rich — or indeed to claim

Before she set about raising taxes that she intended to cut them. Measuring people by the standards they set themselves is still one of the safest benchmarks around, and Mrs Thatcher fails the test lamentably.

Her record on other aspects of tax reform looks none too hot either. The Conservatives used to stress the importance of high marginal tax rates deterring effort. Some advance has been made among the poor by the controversial device of abolishing earnings-related unemployment benefits, and taxing their income without working (hazier) as they are to work more (because they gain extra money for extra work).

The reality of Tory tax policy, as J. K. Galbraith once pointed out in another context, is that it assumes that the rich work harder if they are paid more, but the poor work harder if they are paid less.

Another Tory tax objective was to iron out anomalies in the system, but that campaign too looks as if it is running into the sand largely because the Chancellor has struck off determinedly in the wrong strategic direction. Last year, he began to broaden the income tax base by abolishing life assurance premium relief. This year, he conspicuously failed to make any further progress towards a more comprehensive income tax because the special interest lobbies blocked any cut in pensions or mortgage relief.

It would be much more sensible to head in precisely the opposite direction and make more savings eligible for relief, a proposal originally advanced by Lord Kaldor and taken up this week by the SDP's tax reform group. If all savings were eligible for tax relief — directly reducing income tax liability by the amount of new savings — the result would in effect be a progressive tax on expenditure rather than income. In other words, it would be a tax on what people take out of the economy, not the payment they receive for what they put in.

Evan Davis and Andrew Dilnot: "The IFS Tax and Benefit Model"; IFS working paper No. 58.

Dutch work for shorter hours

Peter Spinks in Amsterdam on the 32-hour week controversy

THE NETHERLANDS, Europe's trailblazer in shorter working time, is currently in the throes of negotiating the perks and pitfalls of implementing a 32-hour week by 1990.

Despite claims by Dutch companies that the transition period necessary for shortening hours will give advantage to foreign competitors, a recent wave of 24-hour strikes in the metal industry persuaded employers to shorten the present 38-hour working week to 36 hours next year.

The president of the Dutch FNV industrial union, Mr Wim Kok, has warned that by shortening hours the union aim at creating more jobs and not at having existing staff work harder and faster to compensate for lost hours.

To encourage the taking on of new personnel, however, employers are calling for changes to what they regard as the presently cumbersome Dutch dismissal procedures. In particular, they wish "on call" and short-term renewable contracts to be used more widely.

Most Dutch employers agree that shortened hours lead to increased productivity if accompanied by the flexible restructuring of working time and, if necessary, by extending the total operating hours of factories. Their preference is for longer days and shorter weeks, although the FNV is opposed to its members exceeding a nine-hour day.

The labour relations adviser of the Christian Employers' Union, Mrs Mieke van Wageningen, says: "We are still struggling to find a balance between the understandable wish of employees to fix their working hours clearly in advance, and the wish of employers to react swiftly to changing circumstances."

Although it is still early days, several Dutch companies believe they have already found a workable balance.

After management consultants Berenschot, Moret & Bosboom conducted a feasibility study among the 6,200

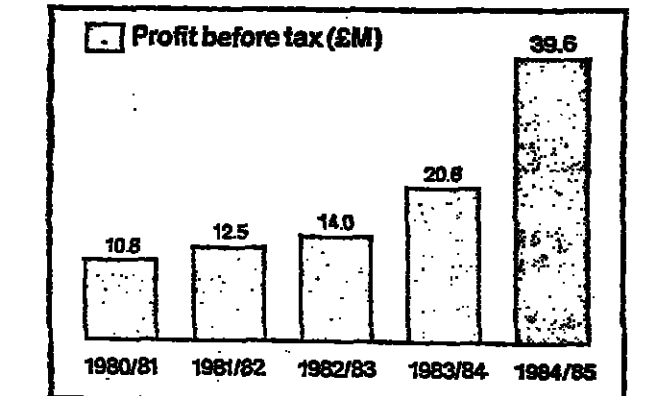
Our success is a reflection of a long term philosophy of meeting the needs of the consumer. For instance, ten years ago many of the products on this page didn't exist. Today they are household items and we are continuing to bring you more sophisticated products. Our development reflects this philosophy. Ten years ago Dixons

has brought you almost every consumer durable that is part of your lifestyle — from televisions and personal computers to microwave ovens and washing machines. Retail engineering has enabled Dixons to grow

profitably at a rate that few companies dream of. With our successful acquisition of Currys last year, we are now the market leader, retailing the widest range of consumer durables in this country. And we will continue to grow. This year alone we will invest more than £35m in our business,

Your lifestyle reflects our success.

had a turnover of £60 million. Today, we are one of the UK's largest companies, with a turnover of over £600m and employing more than 11,000 people in 840 stores nationwide.



Results in brief	1984/85 (£M)	Percentage Increase
Sales	606.7	+73%
Profit before tax	39.6	+93%
Profit after tax	27.2	+55%
Earnings per share	36.7p	+23%

"Last year I said unequivocally that I have never been more optimistic about the future growth of Dixons and that remains my unambivalent view."

Stanley Kalms, Chairman

Dixons

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Dixon House, High Street, Edgware, Middlesex.

Hitech export restrictions 'will damage companies'

By John Hooper.

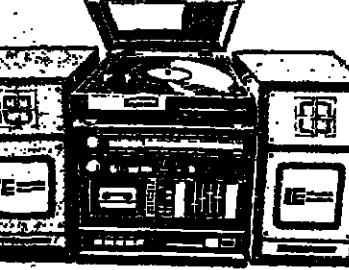
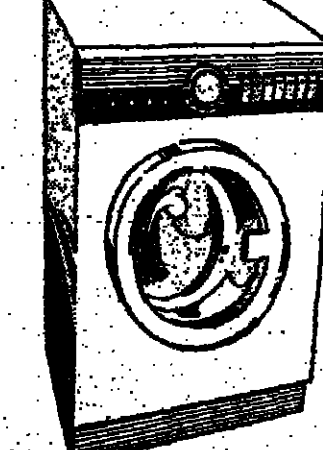
The chairman of NEDO's information technology committee has written to the Trade Minister, Mr Paul Channon, to express "serious concern" about the scope of the government-proposed restrictions on the export of advanced technology.

A government order which would implement the agreed Paris-based Co-ordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls (Cocom), which vets sales of sophisticated technology to Communist countries, is due to come into effect later this month.

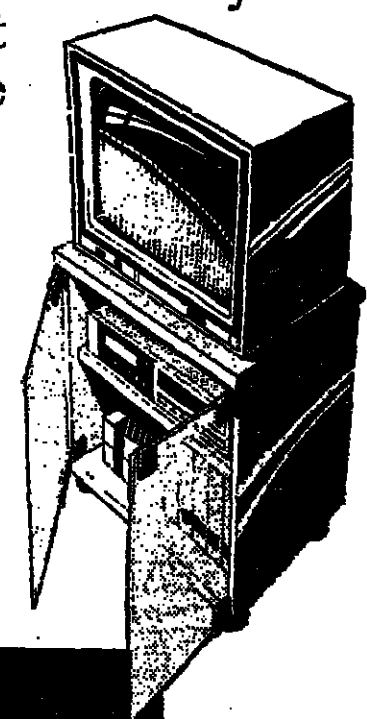
Professor John Ashworth, writes that "the British Government should urge CoCom to lift restrictions on trade in goods which meet military applications. The fact is that almost any civilian product or process technology could with time and determination be re-engineered to military use."

Referring to the provisions in the order for items to be expected if they fulfil spe-

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all with the same care and attention to detail that is vital to successful retailing. With a philosophy like ours, you can see why we're confident about the future.



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With a £600 million turnover the Ilford Group manufacture and sell high quality black and white films and paper, the CIBACHROME range of colour products and photographic equipment and chemicals. Recent investment has led to a dynamic programme of development into new state-of-the-art projects which exploit the Group's technological resources.

We now need to make the following key appointments:

Emulsion Research Scientists

The work of the Emulsion Research Section is primarily directed towards improving our understanding of the photographic behaviour of emulsions by the examination of novel techniques of the precipitation and sensitisation of silver halides. Applicants should ideally have experience in one of the following fields: surface chemistry, crystal growth or electron microscopy.

Candidates should have a degree or equivalent and at least 2/3 years further research experience or an appropriate PhD.

Polymer Chemist

Polymers are finding an increasing number of applications in the photographic industry and the successful applicant will join a small enthusiastic team working on the synthesis and characterisation of polymeric materials for processes related to the photographic industry.

The work will involve the synthesis and characterisation of polymeric additives to control coating and swelling properties of photographic layers, and also the production of latexes as photographic emulsion additives. Additionally, new polymers are to be investigated as novel imaging systems.

Candidates should have a degree and at least 2/3 years relevant experience or a PhD in Chemistry or Polymer Science. Whilst a broad knowledge of polymer science is obviously mandatory, the ability to communicate clearly and effectively is a prime requirement.

These appointments offer the opportunity to work in a small project team environment with strong liaison between R & D, Production and Marketing. There are future career prospects in these disciplines for scientists and technologists.

Excellent salaries will reflect your experience and benefits include contributory pension and generous relocation assistance.

Write with detailed cv and salary or telephone for an application form, to: Philip Kelsall, Personnel Officer, ILFORD Limited, Moberley, Knutsford, Cheshire WA16 7HA Tel: 0565 50000, ext. 3383.

ILFORD

Astrophysics Group Leader

A vacancy exists at the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory for the Astrophysics Group Leader at Grade 6 (Senior Principal Scientific Officer) level. The work of the Group includes support of the University Community and research in the fields of x-ray, ultraviolet and infra-red astronomy and in solar physics.

The duties of the Group Leader include: interface to the University Community involved in space projects supported by the Laboratory; the direction and co-ordination of the research programme in astronomy within the Laboratory; the management of the Group comprising of approximately 20 staff; provision of scientific support to instrument development and satellite project activities. He or she will also take responsibility for maintaining close links with the UK astronomical community, and with international agencies such as the European Space Agency and NASA.

Within the Laboratory the Group Leader will be a member of a senior management team responsible for the implementation of the programme of the Astronomy, Space and Radio Board of the SERC at RAL.

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE:

The Group Leader will be expected to have an established reputation in a leading research team, for example as evidenced by a significant publication record, and will preferably have practical experience in space science or other relevant work.

The appointment may be held on a permanent basis, or for a fixed term period of up to 5 years.

Salary range £17000 - £22926 per annum

The Rutherford Appleton Laboratory offers excellent working conditions and benefits including a good transport service and generous holidays. This is a pensionable appointment.

Contact Recruitment Office, Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Science & Engineering Research Council, Chilton, Didcot, Oxon, OX11 0QX. Telephone: Abingdon (0235) 445435 quoting Ref VN 359. Closing date for applications: 9th August 1985.

serc Rutherford Appleton Laboratory

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Software engineers within Admiral may be team leaders or team members with specific responsibilities. Typically they have a degree coupled with several years' software experience in one or more of the following areas:

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- Data communications
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Applicants with experience in these areas will be of particular interest. Admiral is also interested to hear from applicants with development experience on:

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BICC Research and Engineering Limited (BREL) is the research and development centre for the BICC Group of Companies. Due to expansion in the electronics area we are now looking for a number of recently qualified graduates to work on the development of tomorrow's products. The positions offered are in the Electronics Development Department where projects requiring the following expertise are currently being undertaken:

- Digital Electronics Analogue Electronics
- Microprocessor Software Fibre Optic Interfaces
- Wideband Communications

You should have a good class Physics or Electronics Degree and you will be given the opportunity to learn new skills where appropriate. Your involvement will start during the concept stage of product development and follow through to liaison with the relevant BICC operating company. BREL offer an attractive package including a good salary, pension scheme, 25 days holiday, flexitime and other large company benefits. Applicants should write quoting Ref. G18/7, to:

Anne Buchanan, Personnel Officer, BICC Research & Engineering, 38 Ariel Way, Wood Lane, London W12 7DX.

BICC Research & Engineering

Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service

Senior Research Officer - London

The Resource and General Policy Section is responsible for conducting internal research and providing advice and briefing on outside industrial relations research undertaken by academics and others, together with a range of general policy issues including preparation of papers for the ACAS Council, inquiries on Codes of Practice, drafting and editorial work on the ACAS Annual Report.

Your work will include designing, undertaking, writing up and dissemination of internal research projects analysing and drafting the second Workplace Industrial Relations Survey and summarizing and interpreting existing literature and research findings for internal use and for ACAS publications.

You must have a degree with first or second class honours or a post-graduate degree in industrial relations or a related Social Science subject. At least 3 years' experience in empirical research on industrial relations or labour market behaviour is essential.

SALARY: £11,315-£13,880. Starting salary may be above the minimum. Promotion prospects.

For further details and an application form (to be returned by 6 August 1985) write to Civil Service Commission, Alencon Link, Basingstoke, Hants, RG21 1JB, or telephone Basingstoke (0256) 468551 (answering service operates outside office hours). Please quote ref: G(3)652.

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Philips Medical Systems, Inc. has significant opportunities in MRI Site Management for individuals with a Ph.D. in Medical Physics or Chemistry with NMR and Diagnostic Imaging experience.

Responsibilities will involve developing biomedical instrumentation, performing research for future projects, and writing papers in collaboration with university personnel for presentation to professional groups.

Candidates must be diplomatic yet decisive, with the ability to manage highly intelligent and demanding personalities in prime reference sites. Relocation to the United States as well as European and domestic travel are required. Salaries will be commensurate with ability and experience.

In order that we may schedule interviews with our principals at The Society of Magnetic Resonance in Medicine Conference, being held August 19 through 23, kindly expedite your complete cv, including salary history, in confidence to: K. B. Wolfe, MRI, Employee Relations Department.

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BRITISH ANTARCTIC SURVEY Software Technician

The British Antarctic Survey has a vacancy for a Software Technician for a period of 3 years. The Software Technician will be involved in the design and implementation of field data collection systems and in the writing and tailoring of software for specialised use on Antarctic bases and the Survey's research ships.

The duties of the post are:

To design and implement specialised software in particular to work in real-time, for the collection and validation of data in the field; to accompany major projects, to maintain software in the field, to modify and tailor it to changing operational conditions.

Applicants must have a knowledge of assembly language and experience with the languages 'C' and 'Fortran', would be an advantage. Experience with real-time programming and writing systems software, eg. — device drivers, would also be valuable. Candidates with some knowledge of digital electronics hardware will be preferred. Some programmes will be written in a high level language (PASCAL) and in the specialised machine dependent language PL/B. Training in the latter will be given.

Applicants must be physically fit as they may be required to work at the Survey's stations in Antarctica, or aboard their ships.

Salary: From £6,252 per annum plus annual increments in the scale of £6,252, £6,449, £6,661, £6,869, £7,079, £7,300. In addition a supplement of £946 per annum is payable for periods of service spent south of Montevideo. Clothing, messing and canteen are provided free on base and free messing on voyage.

For further details and an application form please contact: The Establishment Officer, British Antarctic Survey, High Cross, Madingley Road, Cambridge, CB3 0ET. Telephone: Cambridge 67188, Ext. 234 or 235. Please quote reference: BAS 25.

Closing date: 8th August, 1985.

Natural Environment Research Council

ST. GEORGE'S HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL (University of London) DIRECTOR OF COMPUTING & NETWORK SERVICES

Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced computer scientists for the post of Director of Computing and Network Services.

The Medical School is expanding into new accommodation on a new site, and has set up a Computer Unit to be responsible for all Central computing and networking. The Director will be responsible for developing and managing this Unit and the post offers great opportunities for a computer scientist with ability and vision who is also interested in the academic applications of computing. Previous managerial experience is essential.

Salary: Academic related scale Grade 7b (minimum £15,309) or Grade 7c (minimum £19,208) for an exceptionally well qualified candidate.

Application forms, job description and further particulars may be obtained from the Personnel Office, St. George's Hospital Medical School, Cranmer Terrace, Twickenham, London SW17 0RE. (Tel: 01-872 1235 Ext. 4879). Closing date: 9th August 1985.

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SENIOR ANALYST/PROGRAMMER

— Salary range £10,521-£12,933

Although the team is not highly structured this is a senior position reporting to the Information Systems Manager and responsible for the allocation of the workload within the team. Knowledge of PRIME, FORTRAN, INFO and 16-bit business micros would all be useful but equally important is the ability to make an early contribution.

SUPPORT ANALYST/PROGRAMMERS (2)

— Salary c £8,500

These less senior but still demanding positions require some experience of commercial applications and also any of the areas mentioned above would be useful. You would work on a range of systems and have considerable contact at all levels both internally and externally and be capable of working on your own initiative and part of a team.

A current driving licence is essential for all the above posts.

Please send cv or see for further details and application form to Personnel, RSPB, The Lodge, Sandy, Beds SG19 2DL.

Suffolk County Council

Surveyor's Department

TEMPORARY ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNICIAN

Post H309
Scale 3, £5,922-£6,420

To work in the Materials Section of the County Laboratory at Great Blakenham, near Ipswich. Primary duties will be to assist in the sampling of materials in County Council premises and checking for the presence of asbestos.

The appointed officer may also be expected to carry out the microscopic preparation and analysis of samples in the Laboratory.

It is envisaged that the successful candidate will hold an ONC or equivalent qualification in a suitable discipline, ie building chemistry, biology, geology or environmental health.

Starting salary according to age, qualifications and experience. This post is temporary until June 1986 with a probable extension to December 1986.

Application forms available from Suffolk County Council, Surveyor's Department, Rope Walk, Ipswich IP4 1LZ. Tel Ipswich 53601 ext 6295.

Closing date: 26th July, 1985.

FOUNDRY METALLURGIST

SE KENT
Suit older exp. person or graduate wishing to widen experience. Salary £10,000 neg. For further details contact Sue Vidler, 0204-214948 P.S.B. (Apt)

Inner London Education Authority

Research and Statistics Branch

London Profile of Achievement: Pilot Scheme

Analyst Programmer

(MG 8/9/10)

Salary range £5,238-£14,031 plus £1,419 LW allowance

Research and Statistics Branch carries out research into a range of educational topics and collects analyses and disseminates information about Inner London's educational needs.

There is now a vacancy for an Analyst Programmer to join a team of teachers and researchers involved in the development of a comprehensive profiling system of monitoring and recording the achievements of secondary school pupils.

Applicants should have a degree or equivalent qualification and experience of writing programs for IBM, DEC, or similar.

The appointment will be for a period of three years. Application forms and further details are available from: Education Department, Suite 10, Room 205, The County Hall, London SE1 (please enclose cv). Closing date for the return of completed application forms is Monday, 26 August, 1985.

This post is suitable for Job-Share.

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2446-2447, 2448-2449, 2450-2451, 2452-2453, 2454-2455, 24

Thatcher wants direct grant schools

By John Fairhall, Education Editor

The Government is looking at the possibility of setting up direct grant schools again, Mrs Thatcher said yesterday.

The Prime Minister said during a Channel 4 interview that she would like to bring back the schools.

Asked if she could promise some action on "redressing the balance between the state and the private", Mrs Thatcher replied: "We are looking at that. That is going to take quite a time because it would mean setting up direct grant schools again and we are looking at that."

"I'm very disappointed that we were not able to do the voucher scheme, and I sometimes think that I must have another go."

Under the direct grant scheme — which was phased out by a Labour government in 1975 — some fee-paying schools were given a grant in return for admitting free at least 25 per cent of their pupils. When the grant was withdrawn, 120 of the 176 direct grant schools became fully independent.

When the Conservatives came to power, they did not attempt to restore the direct grant system which had been criticised by a section of the independent schools.

Instead, they introduced the Assisted Places Scheme, under which about 35,000 parents are now receiving assistance with school fees. Mrs Thatcher said she would like to expand this system.

The Independent Schools Information Service said later it would prefer the Government to expand the Assisted Places Scheme if a choice had to be made between that and restoring direct grant schools.

Under the education voucher scheme, all parents were to be given a voucher covering the cost of schooling which the parent can "spend" at any school. This was advocated by Sir Keith Joseph, although he has admitted that it proved to be impracticable.

Mrs Thatcher's references to direct grants and education vouchers were described as "populist nostalgia" by Peter Smith of the Assistant Masters and Mistresses Association.

Mr Giles Radice, Labour's chief education spokesman said that Mrs Thatcher was completely out of touch with what had happened in education.

Mr Fred Jarvis, the General Secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said he was astounded that, with all the economic and educational problems facing the country, Mrs Thatcher could waste her time on the discredited voucher proposals. Even her cabinet and backbenchers had opposed the idea.

As for direct grant and assisted places, Mr Jarvis said it was typical of Mrs Thatcher that she would want to divide children further and increase inequality.

Bitter exchanges follow 48-day case which cost £½ million

Counsel for Orgreave pickets seek inquiry as riot charges withdrawn

By Malcolm Piters

Defence lawyers are to call for a public inquiry into the case of 14 miners' pickets acquitted yesterday of all riot charges against them when the Crown halted their trial after 48 days at an estimated cost of nearly £500,000.

The trial, which began in April in Sheffield, ended after Mr Bryan Walsh QC, said the prosecution did not want to proceed because of the large numbers of people who had been involved in the incident at the Orgreave coking plant on June 18 last year.

He also referred to the "confusing scene" and the "growing difficulty over identification. The 14 had all pleaded not guilty to a charge of riot."

On Monday all 13 miners charged with riot and unlawful assembly at the coal board offices in Doncaster in June 1984 were found not guilty in Sheffield Crown Court after a trial which lasted two months and cost £250,000.

Most of yesterday's hearing was taken up with unusually acrimonious exchanges between the defence and prosecution over payment of costs.

Defence lawyers wanted Judge Gerald Coles QC, to order that costs be met by the South Yorkshire, prosecutions department, which brought the case, as a way of "marking" that the case had been wrongly conceived.

But after hours of debate Judge Coles said that for him

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to make such an order might be seen as expressing a view. The judge also refused to criticise the prosecutions department for its preparation of the case, although he did say that mistakes had certainly been made. Costs will be met from central public funds for both sides.

Immediately after the hearing the 14 men laughed and danced in the street, jubilant that they had been acquitted. Earlier they had drunk champagne in the street during a short adjournment. They all left the court without a stain on their characters, said the judge.

Mr Michael Mansfield, counsel for three of the defendants, said that defence barristers would meet to discuss what aspects of the case a public inquiry should examine.

He refused to go into details but it is likely that the defence will want the whole area of the prosecution's case examined and why charges of riot, which carry a maximum sentence of life imprisonment were brought at all.

The judge said that in his view the charges were proper. It had been said that some witnesses failed to come up to the standard expected, and that some had lied. He said that that must be right because the Crown had abandoned the case. There had been a riot but it could not be proved that the accused had participated in it.

Mr Mansfield said that the defendants had been described

as having been involved in the most "serious case of public disorder this century."

The prosecution later emphasised that it had made no such statement.

Mr Mansfield added: "The question we are posing is not whether they should face some charge but whether this case was properly a case of riot." He said that prosecution had been misconceived and this must have been known by those who managed the case.

"The truth is that there has been organised fabrication on the part of those people on June 18 who had the responsibility of handling the public order situation."

Mr Mansfield was twice warned by the judge about making allegations in the privacy of a court room. "You are a member of the English Bar, and I hope you will weigh your words with care. The purpose of this court is not to allow you to vent your views on why the prosecution had halted its case."

Police inquiry launched into bank collapse

Continued from page one

A Commons committee or by a body set up under the 1921 Tribunals of Inquiry Act.

He said: "Because of their mutual mismanagement, the Bank of England and the Government are involved in this episode. For what grows increasingly difficult to answer is the question why JMB was bailed out in the first place and why it was bailed out so quickly?"

Mr Skinner, the MP for Bolton, was cheered by Labour colleagues and claimed that the Government was going to allow "these people to get off scot-free" because action had not been taken quickly enough to instigate a fraud squad investigation.

He said that the Chancellor "delayed and refused to answer questions from me and other MPs."

He went on to say that "those people like James Frith, a director, whose son is employed by one of the largest banks in the country, John Smith, Matthey, might well have been able to cover up his tracks because he happens to be a personal friend, or the borrower is a personal friend of the Prime Minister, and the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry."

The borrower in question is Mr Abdul Samad, whose company was heavily financed by JMB.

Conservative MPs voiced deep concern about the image of the City — several mentioned the unhappiness over Lloyds which was also affecting confidence — and Mr Lawson agreed that the honesty and integrity of the City were of the first importance.

Mr Tam Dalyell, the Labour MP for Linlithgow, asked when Sir Robert Armstrong, the Minister of State, the Chancellor or the Prime Minister was warned of "the likelihood of fraud" in the JMB case.

Mr Lawson said: "I received no such warning at any time. As for the question of the Bank of England discovering these documents to be missing, that was last week."

The JMB affair is making the relationship between Mr Lawson and Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton, the Governor of the Bank of England, much more tense.

Peter Rodgers adds: According to the Bank of England, there is no evidence of papers being removed or destroyed, but there are unexplained gaps in the documentation of several of the loans which led to the losses.

These include notes of conversations with borrowers and descriptions of loan terms and conditions, which should normally be on file. No prima facie case of fraud has yet been established, the bank says.

At the Leeds headquarters of Sumrie Clothes, meanwhile, a senior executive said: "Mr Barker, our chairman and managing director, has gone to Chicago today on a sales trip to sell our suits. We are expecting him back at the end of the week."

A director of the company, Mr Spang, said: "We have never been involved with Johnson Matthey. We have never borrowed any money from them or bought any gold from them."

MP claims that millions face cut in benefits

By David Hencke, Social Services Correspondent

Nearly half the 4.3 million people claiming supplementary benefit will face cuts in allowances from 1987, according to confidential Department of Health and Social Security figures which the Labour MP, Mr Gordon Brown, said yesterday he had been shown by civil servants.

The figures come from a paper prepared for Mr Norman Fowler, the Social Services Secretary, outlining all the gainers and losers as a result of the Government's recent green paper on the welfare state.

Mr Brown, MP for Dunfermline East, said they proved that ministers knew the effect of the proposals announced in 1984.

ONLY 6 per cent of the population is better off as a result of Conservative tax and benefit changes since 1979, according to a special study for the Guardian by the authoritative Institute for Fiscal Studies.

The IFS work shows that 87 per cent lost out while the rest are almost unchanged.

Apart from underlining the sharp rise in taxation under Mrs Thatcher, the figures show increased taxation has been levied disproportionately on the poor. The only households to benefit are those with gross earnings of over £400 a week.

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June and "have been engaged systematically in misleading Parliament and the country."

Mr Tony Newton, the Social Security Minister, claimed Mr Brown had produced "worst case figures" before ministers had made any decision.

The latest figures show that 1.94 million claimants would lose money by a switch from supplementary benefit to the new income support benefit, 600,000 claimants taken off the benefit altogether.

Some 290,000 claimants would lose £5 or more a week, 880,000 £2.25 a week and 760,000 up to £2 a week. Since the new income support scheme will be phased in, the losses would not immediately be apparent to claimants.

Mr Newton has already said

that no one will lose in cash terms. But he is also committed to withholding any annual benefit increase for "losers" until inflation reduces the real value of the benefit to its 1979 level.

Mr Brown said that 1.2 million people will gain by receiving higher benefits but he predicted that cuts already leaked covering housing benefit payments claimed by seven million people will cancel out the gains.

He said that the paper showed an extra 100,000 people in low paid work are expected to claim the new Family Credit payment, costing extra £75 million in a full year.

Changes in the rules governing the benefit will mean that 20,000 families at present on Family Income Supplement would lose their entitlement to the new benefit and some 100,000 existing claimants would lose on average £5 a week, said Mr Brown.

He added that 85,000 women with recent work record will lose their right to maternity allowance. He was unable to give the numbers of those who would gain by a change in the rules.

Mr Brown also claimed that the Government planned to help only 2,000 people a year with funeral expenses from its new means-tested and cash-limited social fund. At present 600,000 people a year receive the £30 death grant, which is to be abolished.

He said he had written to the Prime Minister asking for all the background facts and figures for this "constituting exercise" to be published.

Mr Newton accused Mr Brown of "hashing an old story". The Government would publish full figures in the autumn, he said, and no decisions had been taken on benefit levels.

Alton Francis adds: Mr Michael Mather, the shadow social services secretary, yesterday accused the Prime Minister of misleading the Commons over her refusal to publish the "gainers and losers" of the social security review.

In the Commons he asked the Speaker to act over ministers who repeatedly misled the House by claiming such figures did not exist, when the leaks to Labour proved that they did.

Interest rate cut likely

Continued from page one

ier American monetary policy could not carry the burden of imbalances in the international economy alone. He called on the US's trading partners to expand their economies at home, and urged Congress to pass proposed budget cuts as soon as possible.

"It is a hard fact remains that, so long as we run massive budgetary deficits, we will remain dependent on unprecedented capital inflows to help finance, directly and indirectly, that deficit," he argued.

The budget deficit and the trade deficit — which is restricting the scope of US economic expansion — were "Siamese twins."

Mr Volcker's suggestion that "opportunities exist for fostering more expansion" in the economies of the US's trading partners, was his most explicit warning yet that Europe and Japan must do their bit if the huge imbalances between the US and other economies are to be closed.

He also chided Congress and the Reagan administration for failing to practice what it preached in the Third World. "Cutting their deficits by much larger relative amounts than they are asked of the United States."

The markets were yesterday having trouble digesting Mr Volcker's barrage of comments. However, the new monetary targets he unveiled yesterday appeared designed to keep interest rates down and the US economy moving ahead this year and next.

A new target for growth in the narrow version of the money supply, M1, will be 3 per cent to 5 per cent — but this will be based on the highly inflated growth of the first half of the year.



PRICE PROTEST: French farmers parade their cows under the Eiffel Tower in Paris to demonstrate against the EEC's meat market policies.

Most VAT waived for Live Aid

THE Government said yesterday it would waive £190,000 in VAT receipts on ticket sales for the Live Aid concert.

The "exceptional waiver" of the 15 per cent tax was announced by the Treasury Minister of State, Mr Barney Hayhoe.

He said he accepted that the organisers of the Wembley concert for African famine victims had made a "genuine mistake" in not advertising that the £20 donation they called for to go with the £5 ticket price would be genuinely voluntary.

The donation had to be genuinely voluntary to avoid VAT. He added: "VAT should therefore have been due on the full £25 admission charge."

"However, as a genuine mistake had been made, Customs and Excise, with the authority of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, decided not to insist on the VAT on the donation element of the admission charge."

Airfix call, page 6

Man who died in custody 'hit by truncheon blows'

By Paul Brown

A man who died in police custody in London on Monday night had received a number of blows to the head from truncheons, a solicitor representing three other men involved alleged last night.

The death of Mr John Mikkleson, aged 24, a member of the Hell's Angels, is being investigated by Detective Chief Superintendent Norman Briers of the Complaints Investigation Branch at Scotland Yard.

Mr Christopher Magrath, a solicitor, said: "It is beyond dispute that John Mikkleson received a number of blows to the head from one or more truncheons."

He said Mr Mikkleson and

three other men arrested were taken to a north London police station. Subsequently Mr Mikkleson was taken to Mid-diesex Hospital where he was pronounced dead 25 minutes later. The exact time and place of death was not known.

Scotland Yard confirmed the investigation into Mr Mikkleson's death and said three men had been charged as a result of an altercation at Bedford, near Hounslow.

Martin Griffin, aged 28, of Kensal Green, and Ernest Griffin, aged 35, of Bedford, have been charged with obstructing police and Alan Kraft, aged 28, of Portobello Road, London, had been charged with causing actual bodily harm to a police officer.

Pay protection to go for 500,000 young workers

Continued from page one

A minimum hourly rate and a single overtime rate.

This means that the councils will no longer be entitled to set regulations for holiday pay, weekend rates, shift working rates and guaranteed pays for short time working. They will also no longer be able to set

differential rates for skilled jobs. Mr King said that some council orders set up to 144 different rates of pay.

He also proposed taking new powers to simplify procedures for him to modify or abolish individual councils.

The changes will involve

Britain's de-ratification of the International Labour Convention no. 26. An application will be made in the next few days.

In the Commons, Opposition benches reacted with outrage to the announcement. Mr John Prescott, The Shadow Employment spokesman said it was a "squalid measure, consistent

BBC aims to axe 4,000

Continued from page one

to have a minimum 25 per cent of programme-making staff on a contract rather than permanent staff basis, against 10 per cent now — "to bring new talent into the programme fields."

At least 1,000 staff jobs are at stake, but the BBC manager says the move for programme budgets will not be cut, leaving producers free to decide how, or on whom, it is spent.

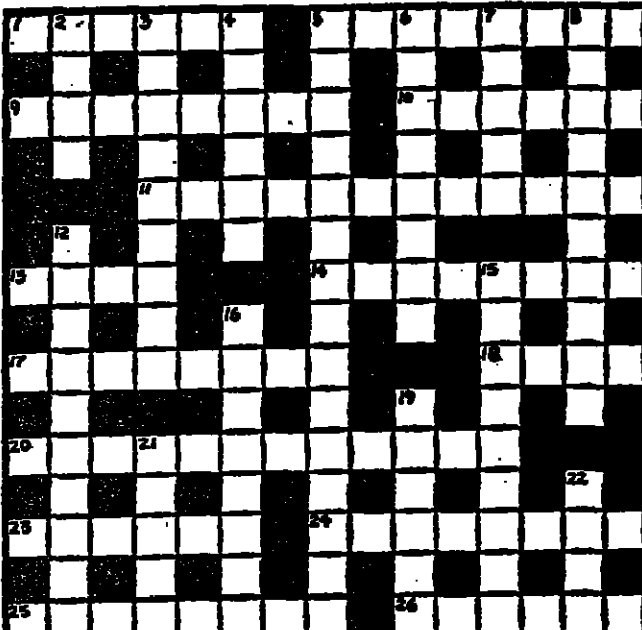
The second shift was described by Mr Michael Mather, deputy director-general, as moving to "a new head office and a decentralised operation." The BBC's regional operations will be reorganised with centres in which television and radio are under common management.

The expectation of savings come in the moves designed to save up to 4,000 jobs.

Services such as catering, cleaning and security will be put out to contract, the training schools will be sold, and the BBC's famous engineering development capability will be run down in favour of more reliance on standard equipment.

Other savings will be sought through changes in secretarial, contract bookings, and other back-up areas.

GUARDIAN CROSSWORD 17,291



ACROSS

- 1 Resign because of one's self-image? (6)
- 5 Ruddy good fellow, university type (8)
- 9 Fraudulently devised building project? (3-2-3)
- 10 King is jolly good sport (6)
- 11 An example of permissive legislation? (9, 3)
- 13 What have you here? (4)
- 14 Lived in when engaged (8)
- 17 Passing place (5-3)
- 18 Twice reduced by 50 per cent (4)
- 20 Enormous assets not declared? (6, 6)

DOWN

- 2 Music is nothing to a Marx act (9)
- 3 Exuberant farm animal that is caught in a tangled net (9)
- 4 Aim to be awkward? (6)
- 5 A robin or wood elf maybe (3, 10)
- 6 Separate — that's abundantly clear (8)
- 7 Regretting having to destroy a note (5)
- 8 Study discipline in a moral sense (10)
- 12 It may indicate the Naval Reserve officer is cold (4, 6)
- 13 Not a big audience, though it was for charity (4, 5)
- 16 Debt one transferred, following orders (8)
- 19 Factories that go to pot (6)
- 21 The 18th century's sinful about her (5)
- 22 A good man rises to king and emperor (4)

CROSSWORD SOLUTION 17,290

ACROSS
1. RESIGNED
5. RUDY
9. FRAUDULENT
10. KING
11. PERMISSIVE
13. WHAT
14. LIVED
17. PASSING
18. TWICE
20. ENORMOUS

DOWN
2. MUSIC
3. EXUBERANT
4. AIM
5. ROBIN
6. SEPARATE
7. REGRETTING
8. STUDY
12. IT
13. NOT
16. DEBT
19. FACTORIES
21. THE
22. A

THE WEATHER

Some sunny intervals

A DEEP depression will be slow moving to N of Scotland.

Staircase, Outer Hebrides, rain, drizzle on Wind SW, moderate, (max temp 18-19C) (6-5-5)

Coast 2 and SW England, Midlands, Wales, London, Angles, SW Scotland, N Ireland: Bright to misty intervals and showers. Wind SW to W, 10-15 mph, (max temp 17-19C) (6-5-5)

Central and N Ireland, NW Scotland, N Ireland: Bright to misty intervals and showers. Wind SW to W, 10-15 mph, (max temp 17-19C) (6-5-5)

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AROUND THE WORLD

Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud
London	18	SW 10-15	Partly cloudy
Paris	19	SW 10-15	Partly cloudy
Brussels	18	SW 10-15	Partly cloudy
Amsterdam	18	SW 10-15	Partly cloudy
Frankfurt	18	SW 10-15	Partly cloudy
Berlin	18	SW 10-15	Partly cloudy
Munich	18	SW 10-15	Partly cloudy
Vienna	18	SW 10-15	Partly cloudy
Prague	18	SW 10-15	Partly cloudy
Warsaw	18	SW 10-15	Partly cloudy
Stockholm	18	SW 10-15	Partly cloudy
Helsinki	18	SW 10-15	Partly cloudy
Tallinn	18	SW 10-15	Partly cloudy
Riga	18	SW 10-15	Partly cloudy
Vilnius	18	SW 10-15	Partly cloudy
Warsaw	18	SW 10-15	Partly cloudy
Prague	18	SW 10-15	Partly cloudy
Vienna	18	SW 10-15	Partly cloudy
Munich	18	SW 10-15	Partly cloudy
Berlin	18	SW 10-15	Partly cloudy
Frankfurt	18	SW 10-15	Partly cloudy
Amsterdam	18	SW 10-15	Partly cloudy
Brussels	18	SW 10-15	Partly cloudy
Paris	19	SW 10-15	Partly cloudy
London	18	SW 10-15	Partly cloudy

AROUND BRITAIN

Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud
London	18	SW 10-15	Partly cloudy
Paris	19	SW 10-15	Partly cloudy
Brussels	18	SW 10-15	Partly cloudy
Amsterdam	18	SW 10-15	Partly cloudy
Frankfurt	18	SW 10-15	Partly cloudy
Berlin	18	SW 10-15	Partly cloudy
Munich	18	SW 10-15	Partly cloudy
Vienna	18	SW 10-15	Partly cloudy
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Amsterdam	18	SW 10-15	Partly cloudy
Brussels	18	SW 10-15	Partly cloudy
Paris	19	SW 10-15	Partly cloudy
London	18	SW 10-15	Partly cloudy

WORTHINGTON

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